



October 28, 2024

Stewardship 2025 “Equipping the Saints”

“He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...” – Ephesians 4:11

Dear Friend,

When I accepted the call to be your seventh rector at Saint Luke's Anglican, it was during a time when we'd been given an unfavorable ruling in our 10-plus year property lawsuit, meaning that we were all expecting to have to vacate the buildings and leave the grounds shortly after taking up this call – I didn't even bother unpacking my books! The peace that Greg and the parish leadership exhibited during that time was incredibly inspiring to me and my family. As we moved to Hilton Head Island, we didn't know what to expect, but we believed that the Lord would provide!

We knew that this congregation had been faithful and courageous during a difficult time in a way that motivated many of us throughout the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). Through Greg's steadfast leadership and this parish's ministries, the Gospel was faithfully preached, discipleship was lovingly undertaken, and the Lord was glorified through your worship despite the legal challenges, cultural changes, and even through COVID.

Since the ruling was overturned and the litigation ended, the best way to understand what's transpired over the past two years is that we've returned to the “work of ministry” without threat or fear: we're no longer at theological odds with our national church, we're no longer afraid of being displaced, and we're free to live into the riches of the historic Anglican tradition freely, thoroughly, and without apology.

That's why I'm excited to announce that this year's stewardship campaign is entitled “**Equipping the Saints,**” because we have the opportunity to bring our budget in line with our staffing and program needs so that we can continue to send people out into the world with confidence, conviction, and hope.

Currently, we're working on putting together a “**Saint Luke's 2030**” vision that will solidify our commitment to raising up new leaders in the church and in society; equipping believers to defend the faith; sending out missionaries; funding our outreach partners; all the while comforting and shepherding people along the way. Yet, before we get there, we need to finish the transition to a fully staffed and fully funded church, which is why we're asking for your prayerful consideration.

Last year, we had 168 pledging households, and we hope to see that number increase. For 2025, our budget is roughly 12% more than 2024, in part because it **includes a salary for a new full-time music director to continue building on the fantastic legacy established by Nina Rodman, minister of music and organist, who will retire on August 31, 2025, after 20 years of faithful service (more to come on that).** The remaining increase is required to attract and retain the quality staff needed for a church of our size, maintain

and care for our physical plant and property, and do the “work of ministry” for the sake of Hilton Head Island and beyond.

Back in 2010, at the founding of the ACNA, our dear friend and first Archbishop Robert W. Duncan, issued a challenge to the churches of the new province emphasizing the importance of faithful financial stewardship to the spiritual health of both individuals, families, and by extension, congregations. In a pastoral letter that he issued on the feast day of the Oxford Martyrs, he wrote:

“God led us to build our Province on committed disciples, the local congregations, and the tithe, all for the purpose of reaching North America with the transforming love of Jesus Christ. The Holy Scriptures caused us to do things this way. We had (and have) a special stake in basing the whole of our life on the direction Scripture gives. While it is only one aspect of discipleship, imagine what God could do through us if all of us tithed! No congregation would any longer be short, no diocese would lack for funds for new works, and the Province would rightly live within the tithes sent to it. We need to start challenging one another about this at the local level. God promises (Micah 3 8-10) to open the windows of heaven if we cease to rob Him and give Him our full tithes.”

He continued with an appeal that I want you to consider prayerfully:

“If you are not already doing so, this would be a great year to take the leap. The tithe to your local congregation is the beginning point. If not yet tithing, even to move a percentage point a year over the next several years will make an amazing difference, both to the Church at every level, and most significantly to your own personal relationship with God.”

In 2 Corinthians 9:7, the Apostle Paul stated, “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” **Accordingly, from November 3 through November 24, we’ll be entering our “Stewardship Season,” where you can donate either online, by mailing your pledge card, or by placing it in the offering plate during any of those Sundays. Then, on that final Stewardship Sunday, we’ll collectively give thanks and bless the pledges of tithes and offerings received.** It will be a day of gratitude and thanksgiving for what the Lord has provided through His people for His church.

Friends, we’re at an inflection point both in our culture and in the life of our church, where we have the freedom and frankly the responsibility to remain a “lighthouse” in increasingly troubled seas – for the sake of the lost, the sustenance of the faithful, and the hope of generations to come. By God’s grace and with your faithful sacrifice to Him of your time, talents, and treasure, we’ll continue to watch the Lord work locally, nationally, and globally for the building up of His kingdom.

Thanks be to God!

Sincerely,



The Revd. Dr. Jady Koch, Rector
Saint Luke’s Anglican