

transforming generosity

October 10, 2018

Dear Friends,

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry often describes us as “The Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.”

As we begin to talk about stewardship of our parish and wider community, I want to pose these questions: What does that mean for us? What is God calling us to do as followers of Jesus?

As Episcopalians, we love our worship. Our liturgies inspire us. The Eucharist is at the center of our lives. We believe the Bible is the word of God and we are people of the Word. As part of the Jesus movement, we follow the One who loves us so much that he gave his life so that we might understand God’s never-ending love for all of creation. As followers of Jesus, we are called to give all of ourselves to God’s work in the world, “But seek first God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Grace Church has been abundantly blessed by the commitment and generosity of its people. Because of that, we stand on the threshold of a new moment as our new parish house is dedicated and becomes integral to our ministry to our community and our world. It is truly a moment ripe for transformation—a time when we may reflect on our priorities and how they can best serve God in this time and place.

That transformation will call upon us to look for generosity in every aspect of our work and in our lives. This week, we embark on our annual giving campaign, a time set aside to reflect on the practice of intentional giving so that we may live into God’s call to the generous life God dreams for us.

Enclosed is a brochure explaining the importance of an annual giving commitment to the continuing vibrancy of our church and its ministries. In the coming weeks, you will hear from others in our parish about the importance of Grace Church in their lives and how they have been touched by God’s gifts. You will receive a letter in November from our Sr. Warden along with a pledge commitment card. I invite you to prayerfully consider how you might participate in a way that is possible for you, returning your card for dedication on November 18. I hope you’ll join me as we work together to transform generosity in our church, our community and our lives.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Dr. Gloria Hopewell, Rector



grace episcopal church
309 Hill Street Galena, Illinois 61036
gracegalena.org 815-777-2590