



*They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. - Jeremiah 17:8.*

Parish of Christ Church Easton

October 2, 2023

Dear Ones,

I am so pleased to talk about the theme of our annual Estimated Giving campaign this year, **Rooted in Abundance**. I am particularly excited about it because it describes the graceful state of our church community, and how we share our gifts so lovingly with each other.

Our giving tradition at Christ Church has always been focused on how we share all our gifts – not just our financial gifts. A church needs new ideas, creative people to lead, individuals who know how to solve complex problems, and volunteers to keep our ministries focused on our neighbors. We usually talk about this in a three-fold way: wealth, works, and wisdom. If any one of these areas is missing from our community, we are diminished.

Each of us has a gift, some of you have many. For some it is cooking and baking; others might blend their voices in the choir. We praise those who have an administrative gift of balancing books or counting the collection; we admire those who offer hospitality, who serve in myriad ways at the altar or behind the scenes, who help us find a seat as the service begins. Whatever your ministries are, we couldn't be who we are without you.

In this year of being in leadership ministry with you, I have witnessed the many ways in which you join with each other to get things done: outdoor concerts, community events, pastoral care, Nourish Bridgeport. It all happens so wonderfully because you are each deeply connected to each other through your roots of faith and service.

I thank you for the ways you have shared your gifts with us this year– your wealth, works, and your wisdom. In the coming days you will be receiving more information about this year's campaign and an invitation to let us know what gifts you would like to share with us for next year's ministry. Thank you for all you do and may God continue to bless you with his abundance.

In gratitude,

Vicki MarkAnthony  
Senior Warden