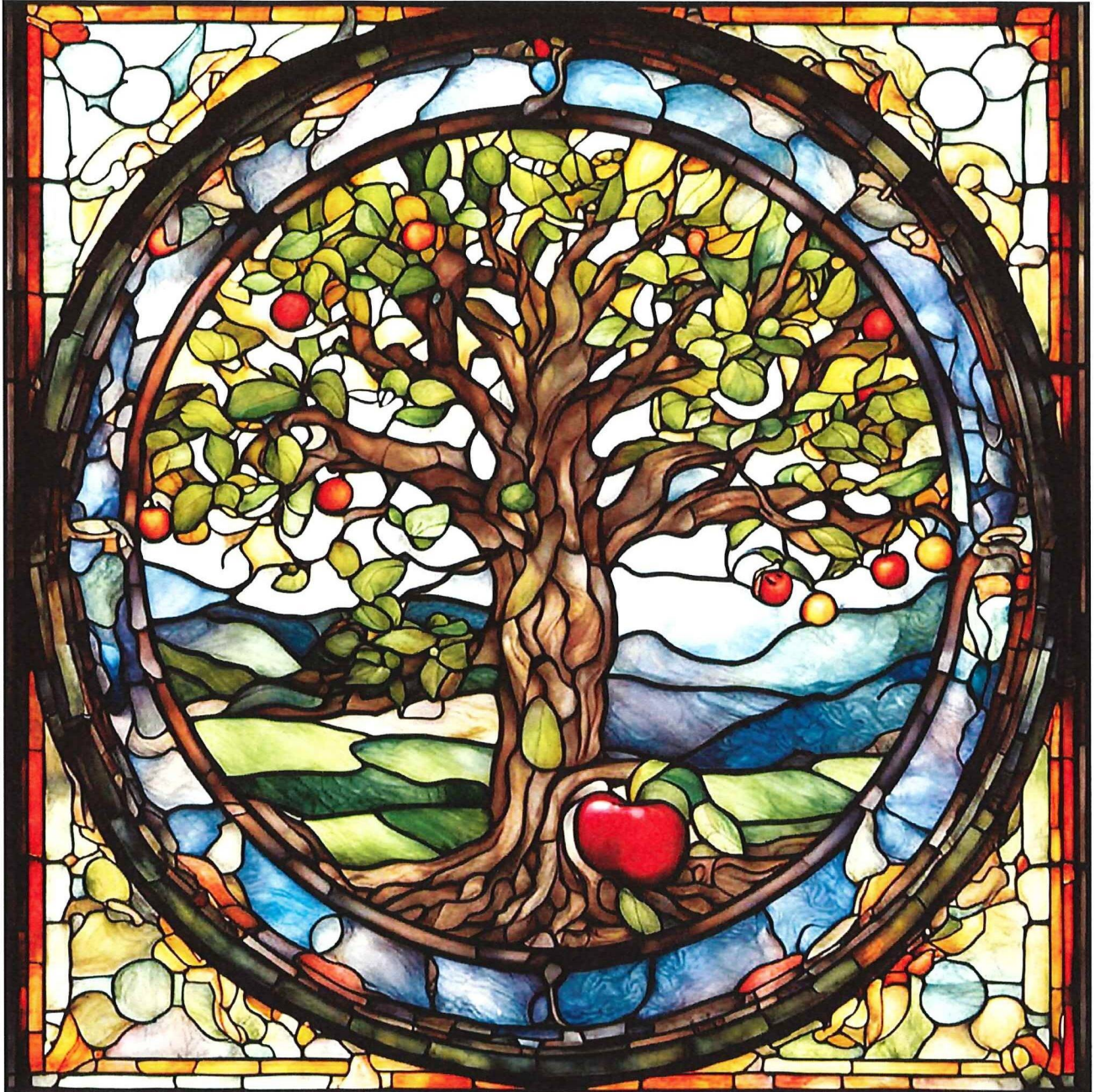




SAINT ANN'S
PARISH



Artwork by Steve Wilson using NightCafe Studio



2024
Stewardship
Campaign



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

Dear friends in Christ:

I have been thinking about and learning about trees lately, especially after your generous parish gift upon the occasion of our Celebration of a New Ministry on February 11. The tangible gift? A gift certificate to Ballek's of East Haddam for a tree! The tree has yet to be planted. That will happen this Fall. Stay tuned! For now, as we launch our pledge campaign, let's explore how trees can symbolize our life as a Christian community, rooted in the abundance of God's love. Thank you for being a part of the abundant community we know and cherish as Saint Ann's.

You have heard the familiar expression, "You can't see the forest for the trees." We most often use these words to describe that occasion in which we lose sight of the big picture while focusing on the details. As your Rector, I often experience the blessing of being able to see the big picture of our congregation – the ministry we bring to our neighbors, the impact we have on our community, the ways that week after week we come together to praise God and grow as followers of Jesus. How we love one another. We are the trees. We are the forest.

I take great delight in wandering amongst the trees. From the small shoot reaching out from its seed and finding the sunlight, to the mightiest tree, standing tall, showing strength, offering sheltering love to those who need it. You are all those trees, each drawing strength from our communion and showering the world with the love and grace you have come to know here. I am blessed in that here in our congregation I can see both the forest and the trees!

I have learned from my reading about trees that trees talk to one another. I was fascinated to learn that trees use their underlying networks of tangled roots to talk to each other through their roots, passing information along. Adult trees share their sugars with young saplings. A dying tree can send its remaining resources back out to help the community. These networks, these roots of abundance, keep trees in place just as much as they free them to grow and share.

The theme of our annual pledge campaign this year is *Rooted in Abundance*. In this theme we are reminded that we are a mighty forest comprised of ancient trunks and sprightly saplings, each of us contributing our gifts to a world that desperately needs our care and strength. As you hear the messages and stories of abundance this Stewardship season, take note of how generosity spreads and widens our root structures of faith and action. We are made abundant through the gifts we freely share, just like the beautiful trees that grace our towns, cities and forests. Thank you for your time, commitment, care, and resources to growing a mighty forest right here in Old Lyme.

In abiding gratitude,

Mother Anita +



Dear Beloved Members of Saint Ann's,

As we navigate our journey of faith together, I am writing to you today with a heartfelt appeal to consider pledging generously to Saint Ann's mission and ministry.

The only requirement of membership in our parish is your desire to be here. We're seeking 100% participation in Stewardship this year. Donations of all sizes make you a vital part of our growing and thriving team.

All that we do is with thanks to you! The foundation of this parish is rooted in the abundance of the generosity of our parishioners. Through outreach and ministry, we work diligently to build a place of fulfillment and purpose, living in the ways of Jesus Christ.

Saint Ann's doesn't reach out to the community—we are a part of the community.

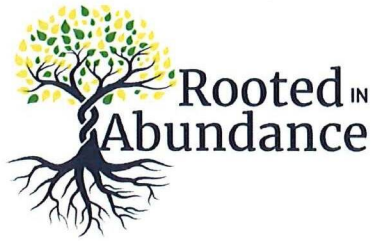
Saint Ann's doesn't reach out to the community- we are a part of the community. Some contributions are worth more than money but financial contributions allow us to collaborate with other groups in our community.

- **Local Groups Convened Here-** By offering our facilities for local groups to gather, we benefit and enrich the community outside our parish. Lyme Senior Center will be using our spaces while undergoing necessary construction. A variety of 12-step programs meet within our walls.
- **Local Artists and Writers-** We host and sponsor local creativity by showing their work and inviting all to enjoy lively conversations with their brilliant minds.
- **Blessing of the Animals-** Welcoming pet owners from the community we gather to bestow blessings on the loved pets of our parish and our neighbors.
- **Feeding the Hungry-** Since 2008, Saint Ann's has collaborated with the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry Organization (SSKP) to serve over 250,000 guests experiencing food insecurity. Saint Ann's volunteers cooked and served over 350 meals last year alone! 100% of the produce we grow in our very own garden goes to feed the hungry along the shoreline.
- **Giving Children Hope-** We support Safe Futures Camp Hope, a local organization dedicated to mitigating the impacts of trauma on children.

Did you know!?

Did you know that with your support, all this and more is made possible...

- **Nearly New Shop-** Our very own consignment and donation shop offers volunteers an opportunity to raise funds for mission, sell gently used goods at a lower price, and enjoy great fellowship. Last year alone, we brought in \$57,000!
- **Godly Play-** where children experience meaning from hearing and enacting Biblical stories, theories, and role-playing.
- **Music-** Led by our very own Hector Migliacci, we offer opportunities for children and adults to perform and to be entertained with visiting concerts.
- **Choir-** A multitude of angels, our choir fills our chamber with joyful song. Have you thought of unleashing your inner songbird and joining?
- **Gardening-** Our vegetable garden and landscaping require attention and care and the vegetables we grow address food insecurity with almost 400 pounds of fresh vegetables donated so far this year!
- **Sewing Ministry-** Provides clothing to Camp Hispaniola, puts together and delivers layettes consisting of newborn clothes, hand-sewn plush toys, and infant quilts to United Community Family Services in Norwich, CT and knits and sews for the Seamen's Church Institute Christmas at Sea program.
- **Families in Need-** We provide financial support to local families and shelters during the holiday season.



Welcome Home!

More than merely a building, Saint Ann's Church is a sanctuary where the spiritual and material worlds overlap. We offer an abundance of opportunities for your gifts to thrive. Everyone has a "little bit of extra" and through your financial generosity and volunteerism, we're able to offer myriad opportunities for your spiritual potential to blossom and to help others blossom on their journey.

We extend our arms to embrace new members and old, fostering a sense of belonging and community that emulates Christ's love for all. Your pledges enable us to create a warm and inviting atmosphere where individuals from diverse backgrounds can come together, united by their faith in God.

Please thoughtfully consider your role in advancing our church's mission through your pledges. Your contribution, no matter the size, has the power to effect change and embody the spirit of Christ's selfless love. Together, we can be a source of light and hope, reaching out to the world with compassion and grace.

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you as you contemplate this call to action. Your commitment and generosity uplift us all and enable us to continue making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Your generosity plays a crucial role in sustaining these ministries and fortifying the bonds of our congregation. Through your pledges, you demonstrate your dedication to spreading Christ's love and actively participating in the betterment of lives both within and beyond our church walls.

When we think about Tithing, we mean proportional giving. A great way to start thinking about contributing is to take a percentage of your income or wealth to contribute to the church. **Please consider what you contributed last year and make a small but meaningful increase this year.**

Tithing- 10% of your income (salary, pension, other).

Modern Tithing- 5% of your income.

With heartfelt gratitude and prayers,

Steven Wilson, Stewardship Liaison

with the collaboration of certain expert practitioners,

Tom Angers
Charlie Brinley
Liz Jacobowitz
Sue Joffray
Alden Murphy
Becca Pote
Charlie Potts
Kathy Rowe
Manon Zumbaum