Announcement #1
October 25th

My name is Sandy Abrams. I first visited STM on Zoom in January of 2021, during the Covid pandemic. I was so excited to see a real time liturgy from my home in Roxborough.

I was a worn-out healthcare worker at CHH, living w 3 cats and a golden retriever, recovering every day from the sadness of an impossible healthcare situation for patients and families, praying for strength to continue for my small Team.

STM's Zoom liturgy with host available curbside after the mass on Sundays, daily hymn singing, wonderful neighbors and long walks with my dog in the woods sustained me with God's help and enabled me to continue to help people in the midst of that terrible time.

I came to Zoom mass at STM in January of 2021 and have never left.

I was anxious to meet the people of STM's when in-person liturgy began. I expected kindness, acceptance, warmth, caring and love and I experienced all that.

- I am grateful to God and the good people of this parish that I landed here with God's help.
- I am grateful for this generous Community and your Love of God, each other and your neighbors near and far.
- I am profoundly grateful for the genuineness of your love and your loving actions.

It is from this background of **gratefulness** that I ponder the Question: **How much of my income is God calling me to give to STMs?**

It was obvious that I was called to be a part of the Saturday Bible Study, Usher, join the GCPC, serve on the Community Engagement Committee, and become a Eucharistic Visitor. It was easy to answer God with a "yes" to these calls, these actions.

But What does God want me to do about giving my money?

Could I expand my giving amount? Could I? Should I? What if times get tough?

In pondering this question on a nice long walk in the Wissahickon w my golden retriever, Rembrandt, I realized there was no formula, no step by step method to figure it out, no clear path from where I was to where God wanted me to be, **so……**

I gave up my strategies and simply listened for what God had to say.

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There was only this one question:

- **What was God saying to me…about my giving….to my church??**

I began to pray and quietly listen for God's input. Not trying hard or listening longer. Listening throughout my days and evenings with my heart for God's subtle message to me.

I kept asking: What is the message that God is putting in my heart about this?

I finally asked: What does God's Love in my own heart say about giving to the good work of this Community?

- What is God saying about my support for others in their callings in the use of their gifts?
- What was God saying to me about my support for our wonderful clergy and staff, our Community Suppers, Immigration Actions, NID, Stephens Ministry, the Choirs, Worship Reflections, special concerts and events?
- What was God saying to me about my level of giving in response to All of the Work of this Beautiful Community?

Standing in the space of those thoughts and prayers and the Possibilities of our STM Community it became obvious last year that **it was time for me to double my giving level.**

This year, I am still in that inquiry. Still listening for God's message with my heart.

Your process, your answers to your call from God and your giving to STMs will be different.

- It will be Unique to you and your family.
- There is no right or wrong answer.
- There is the Love that God has placed in your hearts.
- Just Listen.
- Quietly.
- Over time.

I support you to stand in the possibilities that you see in your Hearts with God's help in the Space of this Beautiful Community!

God's Blessings to you and your Families!