

Good morning.

Welcome to Stewardship Sunday. Today at each service we are reflecting on three themes of stewardship: fellowship, faith, and finance. My testimony this morning is about fellowship. At the 9:00 service, Stephanie Oxner will speak on faith, and at 11:00, Layne Smith will close our series with a reflection on finance.

Before I begin, let me ask you a question: Why are you here at 7:45am?

Maybe you woke up early. Maybe this is simply your preferred time to worship. But whatever the reason, you are here, gathered with friends and neighbors who believe as you do. You could have stayed home. You chose to come. That choice is part of fellowship.

As I have reflected on our themes of Fellowship, Faith, and Finance, I have been reminded of what makes this church so special. For three centuries, God has drawn people to this place—not only to worship Him, but to live in fellowship with one another.

C. S. Lewis stresses that true fellowship begins vertically—with God’s love reaching down to us—and then flows horizontally, from person to person. That is the life of the Church: love received and then love shared. It is also the heart of our mission: From Him, through us, to the world, through worship, discipleship, and outreach.

We see that fellowship in the way this congregation prays together, serves together, and supports one another through both joy and sorrow. We see it in the laughter at gatherings in our Parish Hall—at Alpha, Mission Weekend, and countless other ministries—in the quiet faithfulness of those who serve, and in the friendships that form and last a lifetime.

This season, we have also seen fellowship expressed through remarkable generosity. The success of our capital campaign—raising over ten million dollars to restore our historic church and build a new Parish Hall—is not just a financial accomplishment. It is a testimony to the strength of our fellowship and the depth of our faith in God and His provision.

Some people say the best time to join a church is after a capital campaign. But that is not Prince George Winyah. This congregation—longstanding members and new members alike—supported this effort in ways that can only be described as grace-filled and God-guided. He has truly blessed the work of this body of Christ.

It has been said that fellowship without stewardship becomes only a feeling, and stewardship without fellowship becomes only an obligation. But when the two come together—as they have here—they become an act of love, an offering of gratitude and worship. Everything we have comes from God, and we are stewards of His gifts—our time, our talents, and our resources.

Please pray with me:

Lord, we pray that through your guidance that our fellowship will continue to be both the source and the fruit of all we do—that Your love will flow to us and through us, uniting us as one body in Christ.

Thank you.

William Bowles