



SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL

Lift Up Your Hearts

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

September 26, 2025

Dear Parish Family,

Alice and I were asked by Mother Kellan to lead our Stewardship Campaign for this year with the theme Lift Up Your Hearts: “*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*” In addition to hearing brief reflections delivered by various St. James members during both services in October on why they give, the two of us wanted to share our thoughts on this year’s theme.

In a way of thinking, the heart is the center of the body; it’s what pumps life into us. It gives us strength, and even though the brain controls emotions, we always think of the heart as driving our emotions and passion (just think about somebody speaking “from the heart” or being heartbroken...). My heart has always been at St. James, and my heart has always belonged to God, for it is God who breathed life into my heart and who breathes life into everything that I have. I feel strengthened and at peace when I show God that my heart is always working, always beating, and giving to others.

I give because what I have is through the grace of God, whether it is my money or my talents or my time. How I use them is up to me, and when I feel the spirit of God, I want to use my gifts to help others. Years ago when someone wanted to pay for my lunch (or pay for anything) I always told them they didn’t have to do that, but as I grew older, I thought, “Why deprive someone of their joy?” When someone gives, I feel like they not only give to do something good, but also to feel the joy of helping or loving others. Isn’t that what Christ wants us to do, to be joyful givers and to care for others?

Think of the joy that St. James brings to people, whether it is serving and packaging meals for 20,000 people, aiding refugees in the Upstate, serving breakfast on a Saturday morning to the homeless, or supporting missionaries in Ecuador. Think of the joy of hugs at coffee hour, the beauty of the choir, the chance to learn more about our faith in community. God brings us joy, and we bring our joy back to God and our neighbors when we make full use of our time, talents, and treasures.

Every Sunday when I go to church, I get nourished by the fact that this is where my heart belongs. Alice and I have been attending St. James for many years, and we have seen many changes to our church, but one thing that has always stayed the same—this is where our hearts have always been.

Please join us during this year's Stewardship Campaign as we reflect on where our hearts are and where we find our joy. Reflect on our worshiping together and hearing the gospel and being reminded of how God cares for and loves each of us. In turn, we invite you to remember when you have given of your gifts and what joy it brought to you and others and to God. In a couple of weeks, Mtr. Kellan will send out a letter with a pledge card. In the meantime, we ask your prayerful consideration of these questions: What is your treasure and where does it go? For whom does your heart beat?

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Ken Littlejohn and Alice Littlejohn in black ink. Ken's signature is on the left, and Alice's is on the right, both written in a cursive style.

Ken & Alice Littlejohn
2026 Stewardship Co-Chairs