



October 2025

Dear Friends,

We are so glad that you are here and a part of our story. Thanks to your remarkable dedication and generosity, **Christ Church is *thriving!*** In its 252nd year, our parish is living out God's call through:

- Worship: three Sunday services (including the 10:00 live-stream), a noon service on Wednesdays, dinner church, online prayer six days a week, and a podcast to make our sermons available to all.
- Outreach and Mission: tending the poor, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, and sharing our gifts with our neighbors in Alexandria and around the globe.
- Faith Formation: in Sunday School, forums, and in programs tailored to youth and adults alike.
- Music: through our extraordinary choir, Evensong, and our new Monday concert series.
- Prayer and Fellowship: Daughters of the King, One Sock On, coffee hours, festive receptions, parish-wide breakfasts, and so much more.

And **Christ Church continues to grow**. If you've experienced the joy of a recent baptism, hung out in McMurray Commons between services, mingled in the courtyard during Welcome Sunday, or taken Covenant Class, you already know that our parish is brimming with new members and boundless energy. What you may not know is that we're also seeing growth in our annual giving, with year-over-year increases. Together with our upcoming comprehensive campaign, your generous donations continue to support and bless our missions, ministries, and church. Indeed, ***your generosity has already enabled us to meet critical, longstanding goals*** and create a fully-balanced budget.

Maintaining and accelerating this momentum will require all of us to come together in sharing our treasure, time, and talent. We're therefore inviting you to:

Make a generous pledge of financial support to Christ Church in 2026. Please join your Vestry and other lay leaders in prayerfully making a 2026 pledge. Whether large or small, your contributions help us make a difference in lives inside and outside our parish.

Pledging now also informs your Vestry of your intent to give financially in advance, which allows them to budget appropriately as we plan to tell our story in 2026. Your support is critical to this effort - and with your support, large or small, we will get there!

1. As a parish, we are committed to providing all our staff with appropriate compensation and benefits and to properly maintaining our extensive property. Both of these are prerequisites to offering the extraordinary programming - including outreach ministries - that are core to who we are. We also continue to explore recruiting a third clergy person.

Christ Church embodies God's unbounded love by embracing, liberating, and empowering people, whoever they are and wherever they find themselves on their journeys of faith.

2. **Come to church often for worship, faith formation, and fellowship.** Join us in worship and song in our historic nave; seize the occasion for children, youth, and adults to lean into learning; and enjoy the company of new and old friends as often as you can. When you can't be here, rest assured that our 10:00 services and sermons are always available online.
3. **Be involved.** The opportunities we offer to come together for a common purpose are as varied as they are rewarding. Whatever your interests (and schedule) there are places for you in mission-critical activities focused on ministry, mission, outreach, and fellowship.

As you now discern your 2026 pledge, we hope you will pray on the theme of this year's campaign, "This is Our Story", which comes from a hymnal collaboration in 1873 between Phoebe Palmer (composer) and Fanny Crosby (blind hymn writer) and inspiration from Philippians:

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of Salvation, purchase of God
Born of his Spirit, washed in his Blood
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long"

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6 (New Revised Standard Version)

Remember, friends, that we truly have "Blessed Assurance". **Let us rejoice**, both in the gifts we have been given and in the opportunities we've been given to share them, **for God loves ... a cheerful giver!**

With great gratitude for all you do and great optimism for the future of Christ Church,

Steve Reed
Senior Warden

Kathleen Hickman
Junior Warden

Dave Rees
Treasurer

Anne Richardson
Chair, Finance Committee