



Dear St. John's,

October 14, 2024

Here's something that might surprise you. Stewardship Season is one of my favorite times of the year. The season when we turn our attention to generosity, to taking care of God's gifts and God's people. The word "steward" comes from two ancient roots: *stige*, meaning "path, hall or part of a house," and *ward*, meaning "guardian, or a person who watches over." A steward is someone who protects a path, who watches over a house, who takes care of a treasure.

The inspiring good news is that we were born to be "stewards" in this ancient sense in the community that we all share, love, and serve. We are invited not only to protect and care for our individual home and church but also to protect and care for the wider church community, including all of God's amazing creatures, great and small.

This is the mission each of us was born into and the mission of St. John's as well. As members of St. John's, we are called to embody and proclaim our values to Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love. Through our numerous extraordinary ministries, we seek to create a safe space for children to learn and grow in their faith, nourish our neighbors in body and spirit, help our brothers and sisters claim their sobriety, walk alongside each other through life's joys and sorrows, and care for our corner of creation, loving God and our neighbors at every turn.

The season of stewardship, in other words, is a season of continuing to become the people God created us to be, protecting the **path of love and justice**, watching over creation's **house of healing and hospitality**, and taking care of all God's creatures, great and small.

In the weeks ahead, you'll hear from our "All Creatures Great and Small" campaign team, with more information about how you can participate in this transformative and holy season. And on All Saints' Day, **November 3**, we'll celebrate the manifold works of God with a special joint worship service at 9:00 a.m., parish breakfast, and celebration. Please mark your calendars!

Thank you in advance for being a part of this special time of year, and most of all, for everything you do - great and small - to help protect, watch over, and care for God's bright and beautiful world.

Grace and peace,

Amanda +



O God, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures. + Psalm 104:24



We asked some of our youth how they are watched over or cared for here or how they watch over and care for others. Here are a few of their responses:



*I feel like I can be myself here -
we're inclusive*

*I like watching over the little kids
in the nursery*

*Sometimes I get complimented and
thanked when I acolyte*

*I feel like church people care about me
when they spend time with me
outside of church*

When we're all together

In Sunday school & coffee hour

*During the peace -
getting hugs!*

*I feel watched over when we all
sing together*



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