



We are a community of Christians, open to all, who serve God in Jesus Christ through worship, education, mission, and fellowship.



painting by John Sargent

Stewardship 2026

*“Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice.”
(Hymn 437, based on the Song of Mary)*



Dear Friends,

We write to ask you to pledge to Saint Ann's for 2026. We are so grateful for all the ways you help steward our mission—your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Today we write to ask for your financial support, a necessary foundation that sustains everything we do both on our campus and in the greater community.

In the words of hymn 437, a paraphrase of the Magnificat, Saint Ann's counts **unnumbered blessings**. To number just a few of them:

- **All of you**, our beloved parishioners, who care for each other and for your community.
- **Our choir**, whose voices lift our souls, and the many other ministries that produce our beautiful worship each week.
- **Our children**, who learn the love of God and of each other each Sunday at Godly Play.
- **Our Nearly New Shop**, which sells gently used items, giving them new life twice over—for their new owner, and for outreach missions that are supported by NNS income.
- **Our beautiful campus**, a resource not just for us but for community groups, with its beautiful landscape, memorial garden, and vibrant play spaces for children.

There are many others! As the hymn reminds us, these blessings in turn **give voice to the spirit**. That is, what we do matters not just in our beautiful church, but through our impact in the world beyond our doors. Among our other outreach ministries, Saint Ann's provides financial support for beacons throughout our community, including the Lymes Youth Service Bureau, the Connecticut River Conservancy, Marc Regis' Camp Hispaniola, Safe Futures of SE CT, the Lyme-Old Lyme Food Share Garden and the New London Homeless Hospitality Center.

None of this could happen without your financial support. Pledges allow the Vestry to plan responsibly for the year ahead. What do you count among your blessings? We look forward to hearing your stories as we come together this fall to support Saint Ann's.

Please bring or mail your pledge card on or before Stewardship Sunday, October 26. Thank you for joining us to ensure that, in the words of the hymn, we continue to “tell out the greatness of the Lord to children's children and forevermore!”

In gratitude,

Your Stewardship Committee (*Tom Angers, Trish Hazelwood, Bob & Linda Jennings, Sue Joffray, Alden Murphy, Howard Park, Becca Pote, Charlie Potts, Kathy Rowe, Jacob Russell [as chair], Manon Zumbaum*)



*And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...”*
Luke 1:46-47, NRSV

Dear friends in Christ,

As Christians we are storytellers. We have an ancient narrative, one that describes the beginning of time and the relationship between God and God’s Creation. We see this story grow through the prophetic tradition until our story recounts the life and gifts of the Son of God. But the story doesn’t end with the Resurrection, just as it did not end with the Cross. Our faith story continues on in each of us today as we encounter and are transformed by the Good News of God in Jesus Christ.

Luke’s Gospel, which we have been reading primarily this past church year, is bookended by the faith of two women named Mary. At the beginning of Luke’s Gospel, Mary the mother of Jesus, tells us of her encounter with God who informs her that she will bear a child who will change the world. She proclaims her joy: “Tell out my soul! The greatness of the Lord!” in what we now pray as the Magnificat. At the end of the Gospel, another Mary, Mary Magdalene, visits the tomb to discover it empty and receives instructions from the Risen Christ to go tell the others. She carries this Good News (“I have seen the Lord!”) with jubilation to the disciples.

This past summer we remembered the Episcopalian martyr, Jonathan Myrick Daniels, who, 60 years ago, heard the Magnificat in seminary during Evening Prayer. Daniels knew in that moment of hearing the Magnificat that he “must go to Selma,” answering the explicit call of Dr. Martin Luther King to secure for all citizens the right to vote. On August 14, 1965, Daniels took the bullet intended for a young girl, dying a martyr’s death. The letters and papers Daniels left behind bear profound witness to the unnumbered blessings he received in serving God, particularly, as he wrote, in going to Selma.

“Unnumbered blessings” is this year’s Stewardship theme chosen by your Stewardship Committee. What is your faith story of unnumbered blessings? The idea, dream, challenge placed in your heart by God, that needs to be shared? What is the ministry to which you are called which will change the world, sharing your talents, gifts, and love with your neighbors? Name the “unnumbered blessings” that give your spirit voice. In the words of another inspirational hymn, “Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.”

As you pray about how you will share your gifts with us this year, think about how God is calling you to tell out your soul, to spread the Good News far and wide. Hear the stories of unnumbered blessings that we share every Sunday. Count with us the many blessings God has given us here at Saint Ann’s. At the top of my list is you, the people of Saint Ann’s.

Thank you for being a vital part of the community of Saint Ann’s. Thank you for your support this Stewardship season. We are deeply grateful to you for your generosity and love.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Dr. Anita Louise Schell, Rector



*Please join us for a
Cider Toast & Festive Coffee Hour
in Celebration of Stewardship
Sunday, October 26, after each service*



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