



*Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 5:16



Dear People of God,

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us that we are to be the light of the world. Our focus this year is **Be the Light** and it invites each of us to commit to sharing God's light in our church and community, our work and friendships, our service and our giving. It is a powerful calling.

Light dispels darkness. It enables us to see more clearly and helps us find a way forward, even when the shadows lengthen. To be the light of Christ is one of the great gospel images of discipleship. We are deepening our discipleship in a variety of ways. At St. Andrew's, we have featured a host of formation opportunities for people of all ages, including a revitalized playground and Godly Play for children, a sermon series on Living the Liturgy, a conversation about our history, and youth confirmation classes. We have launched a new website that is more accessible and user friendly. We have held book studies on racial injustice and healing, ECW programs, and retreats for both women and men that have strengthened relationships and served as catalysts for reflection and action. We recently installed our long-awaited columbarium to honor and celebrate our saints in light. A record number of youth are playing and serving together through EYC and we had a great trip to Glory Ridge.

We have also added two light-bearers to our staff. Deacon Pam Haynes enriches us with her leadership, preaching, and pastoral care and she sends us out with joy to be the light each week. Martha Chaires, our part-time Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, has jumped into caring for our children and youth wholeheartedly with programs and opportunities for growth, connection, and community building.

Thank you for all the ways you are stewards of Christ's light. Faithful volunteers cook casseroles and deliver food as a tangible sign of care, provide funeral receptions for grieving families, and raise money for local ministries each December through Deck the Halls. Weekly worship engages our choir, altar guild, vestry, live-stream team, lay eucharistic ministers, acolytes, and ushers. We are engaged in advocacy efforts for creation care, affordable housing, and equitable education. We continue to shine the light of Christ beyond our walls through support of the Abundant Life feeding ministry in East Greensboro, the Family Justice Center, the One Step Further food pantry, and the Corner Market. A dedicated group of volunteers walks with the Safi family, refugees from Afghanistan, offering assistance in countless ways from tutoring to transportation.

Here at St. Andrew's, stewardship is a year-round commitment of our time, talent, and treasure as our ongoing response of thanksgiving and gratitude to our all-generous God. Rather than a program, it is a way of life. Our annual giving campaign, which runs from *October 9 to October 23*, focuses on the financial part of stewardship that builds up, sustains and supports the work of the church.

Help us **Be the Light**. We serve as a place of sustained prayer, purpose, and worship. We want to fully fund our ministry to children and youth, find creative ways to offer our building and campus as a community resource, and support our civil rights pilgrimage to Selma and Montgomery. We seek to strengthen our relationships with our neighbors and community partners to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and be transformed by God. Your financial support is crucial to our flourishing as a community of faith. We ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge for the year ahead. Every gift is appreciated. Every gift counts.

You are the light of the world. May we join together to give generously so that St. Andrew's can continue to make Christ's love visible in this church, this community, and this world.

In Christ's light and love,

Shelley Kappauf and Sandy Shelton, *Co-Senior Wardens*, Eric Revell, *Stewardship Chair*, Rev. Ginny Bain Inman, *Rector*