



October 20, 2024

Dear Friend,

“I come that you may have life, and have it more abundantly.” Those are Jesus’ words to us from the gospel of John and the theme of our stewardship season this year. In a time when we are often told to be afraid and that there isn’t enough, Jesus reminds us that in community with God and each other our faith can overcome fear and that there is abundance to be found.

For 151 years and counting, many of us have found that abundance – of community, of compassion, and of love – at St. George’s. Our parish has been a gathering place, a refuge, a house of joy and welcome, and a wellspring of service for neighbors near and far.

The abundance of our life together can be seen any given Sunday when the time in the service comes for blessings. We might bless someone celebrating their sixteenth birthday or a couple their 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary, give travel blessings or bless those who just received a driver’s license, offer a blessing for a graduation or retirement. You might see laying on of hands before surgery or to celebrate the end of cancer treatment.

St. George’s shares compassion and love with each other also through the cards and notes that go out regularly from the Pastoral Care Team and from parishioners who take the time to send some cheer, share congratulations or offer prayers and support in times of grief, illness or difficulty. Prayer shawls are knit and blessed regularly and they go far and wide across and beyond St. George’s. Two baby blankets were made and given to families who added new members this year. This fall we started staffing the cry room once again with a child care attendant. When you start looking, signs of God’s abundance are everywhere at St. George’s. We see it in the high school students who were confirmed this spring and in the younger servers were promoted to full acolyte this summer.

We strive too to share God’s blessing beyond St. George’s and into the wider community. A sampling of our sharing of God’s abundance in 2024 includes the 150 boxes of food given to students and families of Gaywood Elementary School so far this year, plus over \$3,000 in grocery store gift cards. It includes the 201 school uniform pieces plus 130 pairs of socks or tights for Gaywood students from the uniform drive and the 700 lunches and 700 breakfasts for the guests of the Warm Nights homeless shelter we provided this spring, not to mention untold carloads of food donations for the Bowie Food Pantry throughout the year. This summer also saw significant contributions to the Rector’s Discretionary Fund which assists parishioners and community members with financial support in times of crisis.

We can have this impact because of you – because you participate in sharing God’s abundance. And now more than ever, in an age awash in suspicion, supposed scarcity, and disconnection, the world needs more places like St. George’s: communities dedicated to bringing more compassion into the world, more beauty, more abundant life. And with your help, St. George’s can continue to provide these treasures.

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I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.  
+ John 10:10

St. George’s Church, 7010 Glenn Dale Road, PO Box 188, Glenn Dale, Maryland 20769  
Office: 301-262-3285; office@stgeorgesglennedale.org; [www.stgeorgesglennedale.org](http://www.stgeorgesglennedale.org)

As each one of us generously gives, we know and trust that the God of abundance will make more out of our gifts than we can even imagine – and this is where you come in. With your financial support, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of those touched by St. George's. With your willingness to share God's abundance, we can continue to share God's compassion and community in real and meaningful ways.

Enclosed you will find a pledge card for 2025, along with materials that give you an idea of how important pledging is to the life of St. George's (hint: it's essential) and what our financial picture looks like. You are invited to pray the prayer printed on the pledge card - and then fill out the pledge card online (<https://onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/AddPledge/pledge2025>) or in hard copy and return it to church before or on November 10. At our Ingathering Sunday on November 10, we will joyfully share God's abundant life together as we celebrate our mission of creating life-changing community in an often lonely and fragmented world. There will be a special festive hospitality after both the 8:00 and 10:00 services that day, and we hope you will be present to enjoy fellowship and community in this way.

Thank you in advance for being a part of this important, challenging, and joyful work, and for your presence and commitment to St. George's.

Blessings,

The Rev. Connie Reinhardt, Rector

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