



Episcopal Parish

Beloved friends,

Every Sunday we hear, *"Lift up your hearts."* Those words invite us to center ourselves in God's love, and to open our hearts to something greater. This year, our stewardship theme, *"Lift Up Your Hearts,"* calls us to do just that—not just in worship, but in how we give, how we serve, and how we care for this community.

Stewardship is, at its core, a way of giving thanks. It's about recognizing that all we have, and all we are, comes from God. When we pledge our gifts to support St. Paul's, we're saying *"thank you"* to God, and we're committing ourselves to the work we share here together. Each pledge, big or small, strengthens our community and helps us carry out our mission in the world.

In my short time here, I've seen countless moments where hearts have truly been lifted. I think of the joy on the faces of children, the warmth of a caring hand offered at outreach events, and the power of our voices raised together in song and prayer. I think, too, of the quieter ways you all serve and support one another—checking in on those who are struggling, offering encouragement, and praying faithfully. These moments remind us of the presence of God's Spirit in this place.

Now, as we look to the year ahead, I ask you to consider lifting up your heart once more, by making a pledge to support our ministries. *What has this community meant to you?* How has it lifted you up, and how might you help lift others through your giving?

Thank you for all you do to make this community a place of love, hope, and faith. I'm grateful for each one of you, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the year to come, with hearts lifted to God.

In gratitude and love,

Mother Cynthia +

Mother Cynthia McKenna+  
Rector