## Stewardship and Community - In the words of Frank Boyd, Senior Warden

24 And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. ~ Hebrews 10:24-25

October and November mark the season of stewardship at Grace Episcopal Church. The word stewardship can sometimes seem heavy, suggesting responsibility, supervision, or control. But I think trust is a better word for stewardship. As believers in Christ's salvation, God has entrusted each of us to care for each other and his word. In the above passage from Hebrews, Paul is encouraging believers to support and motivate each other in their faith journey. We are not only stewards of God's word, but we are stewards to each other. The focus on "love and good deeds" in the first part of the passage aligns with Jesus' greatest commandment to love the Lord your God and your neighbor as yourself. The second part of the passage, "not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another," speaks to the importance of community and highlights the necessity of communal worship and fellowship. A strong Christian community nurtures and strengthens us individually and communally. It ensures that God's word lives on within us and throughout the world.

Grace Church provides a community for growth, encouragement, accountability, and forgiveness, and we are entrusted as stewards to nurture this community. We nurture it by showing up to worship, showing up for each other, and ensuring that our church is financially viable. Because this year's Stewardship Drive emphasizes the importance of community, we are having a series of small lunches or dinners in the homes of some of our parishioners and in the Parish Hall. This will provide an opportunity to get to know each other in a more intimate setting and share our faith journeys. Rather than just filling out a pledge card for the year 2026, I encourage you to accept an invitation to attend one of these small gatherings and nurture your relationship with the Grace Church community.

Frank Boyd Senior Warden