

Stewardship and Community - In the words of

Jade Petteruto, of our Grace Stewardship Team

To my Grace Church family,

Two years ago, I wrote to you about planting roots for the generations to come—about imagining my future children worshipping within these same walls, surrounded by the same love and faith that formed me. Fast forward to today, and that vision has become a beautiful reality. Our little Maisie is now a baptized member of Grace, joyfully toddling up to the communion rail, receiving the body and blood of Christ among the same familiar faces who have nurtured me since childhood. Watching her take her first steps—both physical and spiritual—reminds me daily what it means to be part of this living, breathing community of faith.

This year's stewardship theme, **Living Stones, Building Grace**, draws from 1 Peter 2:5, where we are reminded that the Church is not built from bricks and mortar alone, but from the hearts and hands of its people. Each one of us is a living stone, shaped and placed by God to form a spiritual house strong in faith, hospitality, and love. Through our giving—of time, talent, and treasure—we help build the structure that supports not only our present worship but the faith of generations yet to come.

As I look at Maisie and think of our children and young people learning in Sunday school, serving as acolytes, communing together as a youth group, or running down the halls with laughter, I am filled with gratitude. They are growing up in a house that you and I are building together. Every pledge, every volunteer hour, every shared prayer adds another stone to this foundation of grace.

Grace Episcopal Church has always been more than a place—it's a home. It's where we are comforted, challenged, and renewed. It's where we celebrate baptisms and weddings, mourn losses, and find hope. It's where God takes our imperfect pieces and fits them together into something beautiful, lasting, and holy.

As we enter this stewardship season, I invite you to prayerfully consider how you can help build this spiritual house. Whether through your financial pledge, your service, or your presence in worship and fellowship, your contribution matters

deeply. Together, as living stones, we are building Grace—stone by stone, heart by heart, guided by the Cornerstone of Christ.

Please watch for your pledge card later this month, and mark your calendars for **Ingathering Sunday on November 16**, when we'll come together in joyful celebration of all we've built and all God continues to build through us.

With gratitude and love,

Jade Petteruto