## Christ Before Us



## 2026 Annual Giving Appeal

November, 2025

Dear Friend,

As we begin this year's Annual Pledge Campaign, I want to thank you for your presence at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. We are blessed by all who walk through our doors and hope that the ministries of the church that serve the needs of our members and our local community nourish and support you in your faith journey.

This year's annual giving theme, *Christ Before Us*, is an invitation to anchor ourselves in our faith, meditating on the words of the prayer attributed to St. Patrick:

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,

Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me,

Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

For many of us this year, our church communities have kept us grounded and supported in our faith through great uncertainty and anxiety. It is clearer than ever that we need each other. The invitation to give to your church is an invitation to invest in a community that proclaims and lives out God's great love for all people. In a world often marked by division and indifference, our investment of treasure signals our hope and our commitment to keep Christ before us, today and every day, loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

During the coming year at St. Peter's, we seek to deepen our ability to build and sustain the kingdom of God through the ministries to which we commit our hearts and resources. These include our outreach efforts through the free pantry, the Thanksgiving meal to local seniors, support for the youth served by our community center, and hosting book and bible discussions that encourage grappling with matters of faith, among other endeavors. Nearly all of our parish members make an annual financial pledge in support of these, and other ministries. Some members tithe, committing ten percent of their income to the missions of our church. Others give proportionally by committing a certain percentage. Still others give as they are able. Growing as a disciple includes supporting the entire community in the form of a financial pledge.

Included with this mailing is a pledge commitment form for 2026. We ask for your financial support so that St. Peter's may keep Christ before us as we continue his ministry of caring for others and healing our world. Your support will be crucial in our ability to accomplish our goals. We ask that you consider prayerfully how you will contribute.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss making a financial pledge, please get in touch.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Anne Fraley, Rector

Mark Bell, Senior Warden

