

My Dearest CTL Family,

It is hard to believe another year has gone by and it is safe to say, “We are still here!” We have had a hard year of losses, but also of gifts. Sometimes, in the midst of grieving our lost parishioners, family, pets and friends we can become myopic and forget to see the abundance around us.

But we do have blessings, and we do have abundance! CTL members have stepped up to supply us with beautiful oil candles, new altar flooring, and most memorably a beautiful grand piano. Yet, there have been other gifts of time and talent that are too numerous to list in one short little letter. Please know – we all notice even the small gifts you bring with you to nourish our community.

It is my hope you have enjoyed our Bible studies, concerts, dinners and the new guests at church, including the opportunity to baptize the newest generation into the family of Christ, even though for those families because of distance and life demands we don’t often see those young ones among us. And since some of continue to have the demands of age upon us, we continually are working on getting rides and transportation for those needing rides, many thanks.

For such a small parish we have accomplished much, from helping our own church, to lending me, your priest, out to another church, feeding ourselves and many others through our donations to the Food Bank. We have done Layette ministry, neighborhood clean up, and many thanks to all those who film our services and schelp furniture to and fro, and make our sound system, music and liturgy work. Thank you for all trying to be creative in both formal and informal ways, with a quick mention on the amazing floral arrangements we see each Sunday on the altar. Some of you have even been willing to fill in for a sermon or speak to the community on the things that you have a passion about-inspiring all of us.

It is with all this in mind I have chosen the following stewardship scripture:

*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” – **Galatians 6:9-10***

It is easy to rest on past laurels, it is also easier to “let someone else do it” but we are not those people. We will be headed into a fall of celebrations, memorials, and planning the future with a new bishop. We are, and with your help will continue to be vital and thriving within the Episcopal Church and in our local community. I call on you at this time to consider pledging, tithing, and gifting so we can continue to take care of our family of believers and continue welcoming new souls into our fold!

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Lois Williams