



STEWARDSHIP & ST. ANDREW'S

WHY I GIVE

St. Andrew's is blessed by faithful people who have and who are building a culture shaped by a legacy of giving. In big and small ways we remember those who came before and were stewards of St. Andrew's before us. Here is the story of one such steward:



Elizabeth Ann Tripe was an energetic, fun-loving lady who for many years sang in the alto section of the choir. The choir provided her with a "second family" where she could be herself and do what she loved – sing! She loved to entertain, and one of her greatest pleasures was to host the infamous choir potlucks. These events were truly "pot luck", the most memorable consisting of all desserts.....and mashed potatoes! At which point, Elizabeth simply opened a canned ham!

Upon her death, the choir received a \$5,000 bequest to be invested, the interest to be used by the choir for a dinner out! This gift has officially (and affectionately) become known as the E.A.T. Fund to our choir members.

Elizabeth accompanies her fellow choristers on these dinners in the form of a plaque which between excursions hangs in the corridor outside the choir room, and she is remembered with fondness and laughter. At least one other choir member has planned a similar bequest.

Here is a wonderful quote from that previously mentioned plaque:
"Let us never forget to feed the whole person".

Elizabeth's gift was not only financial, but spiritual and emotional. Her gift allows our choir members to come together around the table, enjoying each other's company and feeding their spirits at the same time.

I have never forgotten my very first visit to St. Andrew's in 1986. My wife and I were looking for a Church that would serve as a spiritual home for our family – and we were doing the usual "church shopping" that folks often do. As soon as we walked up the front staircase, we were greeted by an elderly usher named Irish Johnson who asked where we wished to sit by saying "Are you with the sheep or the goats?" It's hard to describe but somehow that one Sunday morning, we felt that we were "home" and the Spirit was inviting us to "Come in and sit down."

In the intervening 35 years the faith community of St. Andrew's has accompanied my family on our journey through life's changes, both happy and sad. I have been blessed with so much from this church and from God – so it is only fitting that I give back as I can, to help St. Andrew's continue to provide the inclusive ministry that it does.

Singing in the choir, being on the TURKEYFEST Committee (34 years!) and sitting on Church Council have all been joyful ways of offering my time as part of my gift back to this church. During this pandemic I have also used my talents to develop ways to keep our church community connected and keep folks in the "St. Andrew's loop." I also participate in the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) program of monthly giving. I know that my regular financial gift is an important part of saying "Thank You".

When I have finished counting my blessings, I know that St. Andrew's can count on me. I invite you to count your blessings and consider how you too can make the best use of your "time, talent and treasure" in support of St. Andrew's and its ministry in North Bay.