And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior…"
Luke 1:46-47, NRSV

Dear Family of God,

St. John's stewardship campaign is taking place now through Sunday, November 23. Please spend time in prayer to discern how you will respond to the Blessings God has done in your life. On the 23rd we will gather and bless your commitment cards. Remember we do not collect these cards they are a reminder of your response to God. Portions of the rest of this letter are from the Episcopal Church "Tell Out My Soul, 2025 Stewardship Campaign.

As Christians we are story tellers. We have an ancient narrative, one that describes the beginning of time and the relationship between God and God's Creation. We see this story grow through the prophetic tradition until our story recounts the life and gifts of the Son of God. But the story doesn't end with the Resurrection just as it did not end with the Cross, it continues on in each of us today as we encounter and are transformed by the Good News.

Luke's Gospel is bookended by the animated story-telling of two women named Mary. Early in the Gospel, Mary the mother of Jesus, tells us of her encounter with the Divine who informs her that she will bear a child who will change the world. She proclaims her joy: "Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!" At the end of the Gospel, another Mary, Mary Magdalene, visits the tomb to discover it empty and receives instructions from the Risen Christ to go tell the others. She carries this Good News with jubilance to the Disciples.

What is your Good News; the idea, dream, challenge placed in your heart by God, that needs to be shared? What is the ministry to which you are called which will change the world, sharing your talents, gifts, and love with your neighbors?

I pray some of you will share a little of your story of what God is calling you to as we enter this new year. Focuses on the inspiration you have received from God and how your soul is transformed and inspired to give back to God, His church and others around you. This will happen as you seek ways to share your gifts from the inspiration and blessings you have been given.

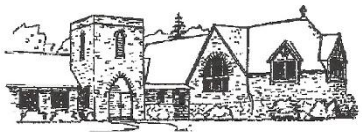
With this letter, I am sending campaign materials for you to use in your discernment for how you will share the Good News of your transformative creativity and abundance with us and with our neighbors. Each hour spent volunteering, each good idea that you have, each dollar that you donate is transformed through prayer and Grace into ministry and mission. We could not be an example of love and compassion in our community without your many and various gifts. Please return your commitment cards by November 23rd so that we may bless them.

Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!

In Christ,

Fr. Art +

The Rev. Art Garno
Rector



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