



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

October 11, 2023

Building on a Sure Foundation

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

"According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ."

Dear St. Mark's Family,

I read a story recently about a man that purchased an old home that he completely restored. He said that he saw himself as a "next-generation steward." Since the foundation was solid and sure, he spent a great deal of time and effort and money to restore the home to its former beauty. He prided himself in using the new and improved to preserve the old and proven. His vision was to see the grandeur of the old house live into the future, not to build a new house.

The term "next-generation steward" grabbed my attention. Can I call myself a next-generation steward of the Kingdom of God? God, the creator of humanity and the entire universe, articulated and crafted an amazingly beautiful and timeless plan of grace and truth to restore and preserve what sin had destroyed. He paid an enormous price to do this for our sake. Am I doing my part to preserve God's original plan, yet make it relevant and accessible to those in need in today's world?

The word "steward" has many definitions. When we talk about Christian Stewardship, we are specifically talking about the responsibility that Christians have in maintaining and using wisely the gifts that God has bestowed. God wishes us to be his collaborators in the work of creation, redemption and sanctification.

As the Search Committee is coming near to the end of our search process, I find myself spending a lot of time thinking about what this new transition will bring to the future life of St. Mark's and our church family. I am filled with hope and excitement about what lies ahead and how we can be a cornerstone of the community that is growing rapidly around us. St. Mark's has a sure foundation! Our mission statement and core values, that are printed on our church bulletin every week, speak to who we are as God's people.

During this season of stewardship, prayerfully consider how you can be a "next-generation steward" of God's Kingdom. "Choose with care" how to build on God's Kingdom. Pray for St. Mark's and the Vestry as they discern how to manage the resources that God has given us through you, his people. Consider how you can help bring God's timeless plan of grace and truth to your community by pledging a tithe for the coming year ahead, as we inevitably

welcome a new rector. And join us on **Commitment Sunday, November 12** to celebrate and give thanks to the immeasurable gifts that God has bestowed upon each of us by worshipping together, filling out a commitment card and sharing a meal.

In His name and for His service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alysoun Marks".

Alysoun Marks
Senior Warden