Barb Kersey's stewardship testimony.

Sunday, October 11, 2026.

I love to talk about Christ and St. Luke's - and do so often! In the summer of 2024, David and I had been actively searching for a new church home. For a few years since our separation from the church of my youth, the church that we raised our son and daughter in, we had been wanting to worship in a place where it was obvious and visible that "all are welcome here."

It doesn't get more visible than a huge banner on the side of the church that says, "You belong." While no one in our immediate family is queer, I have long felt a deep calling and affinity for my queer brothers and sisters. I have always had queer friends, and lost some dear ones in the AIDS epidemic. (I attended one of their funerals in this sanctuary, nearly 40 years ago.)

When God's story intersects with mine, I get a strong prompt to pay attention, and I am curious about what is being revealed. After noticing the banner, I went home and looked at the CSL website only to find our old friend, Vince Connery! Vince sang at our wedding over 32 years ago, and I had done some spiritual direction with Vince before David and I married. After just a few Sundays, we knew that this parish was the answer to our prayers. In David's words, "we quickly felt this to be a comforting and spiritual home."

I was intrigued with the Queer Theology book club and began to attend their meetings. In the first meeting that I attended, Anders Nolan, the group's leader, introduced the writing of Padriag O'Tuama.

Padraig came to the parish in October of 2024 and conducted a community lecture, preached and taught the Adult Formation class. I was mesmerized by his teaching of collect writing. I began to write collects each day as a part of my devotional practice and as God's story intersected my own, that grew into writing with others from the parish and the formation of the Prayer Guild.

In the summer of 2025, I was surprised to hear the call of the Holy Spirit suggesting that it was time for me to retire my professional work - 40 years as a MFT in a local medical practice - in order to be free to be more involved in God's story here at the parish.

I retired six months ago, and have loved the freedom to be involved in the Prayer Guild, Queer Theology, the Prayer Blanket ministry, the Lunch Ministry, and more recently, the Health Matters for Every Body committee. David has commented on a number of recent occasions, "I've never seen you happier."

When I got online to renew our pledge for next year, I thank God that we have found our church home; indeed, we are here to stay. (In fact, we have made arrangements to be buried in the columbarium in the beautiful Lychgate garden.). We trust that God's story and our story have many chapters left to write. It is our sincere pleasure to support the mission and ministries of Christ and St. Luke's. Alleluia!