



# Christ & St. Luke's

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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### **Stewardship testimony by Vickie Easley, Nov 2, 2025.**

I am Vickie Easley, and I grew up in the Episcopal church, learning about God and giving my time and talent. I joined Christ & St Luke's in 1989, attracted by its outreach and spiritual depth. It all boils down to this: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. Christ & St Luke's is where it is possible to do this...often.

We praise God in our worship services. We join in communion with God. We pray to God. We work to develop our understanding of God so we can pack our spiritual suitcases for end of life.

We learn from Biblical readings, prayers, sermons and inspiring music here. We listen and learn from sharing in classes, study groups and Forum sessions. We learn from our conversations with fellow parishioners.

We work to care for God's creation, helping to protect and restore it, with oyster gardening, recycling and composting at home and here in church.

We can love our neighbors, who can be in our congregation or who live on our street or within the larger local area, or who live overseas. We can love them daily in prayer and at special times and events. They are our old friends or the new members we welcome. They are each guest at Lunch Ministry or Winter Shelter. They are patients who have a visitor or those who receive comfort from a knitted shawl that feels like a hug. Our neighbors are foster children, William School families, the students who tend the Community Garden or students in Kenya. Loving our neighbors can look like the overwhelming response to help the Food Bank.

All of this is very beautiful and gladdens God's heart, but...financial support is crucial to keep everything running. There are utility bills, supply costs and salaries to pay. When I was in high school, my father was treasurer on the Vestry, and I helped him with the accounting involved in bookkeeping. In those days before accounting apps, we balanced the books and tracked the debits and credits. I developed an adult appreciation for the necessary financial side of church business.

My parents pledged and I followed their example and continue to pledge annually because I understand the importance of this. Pledges create the budget, which determines how much Christ & St Luke's, all of us, can do and share.

Thank you for pledging, and if you haven't already, this week consider how you love God...and love our neighbors...and ourselves, all who benefit from Christ & St Luke's bounty. Please prayerfully and gratefully make your pledge. Thank you.