

## BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

How do you see God at work in your life through your connection to St. Stephen? Here's how some of our council members answered that question.

When I first came to St. Stephen 20 years ago, I found grace. I found peace. I found hope. I found joy. Even in the midst of the pandemic, I continued to experience each of these each time I worshiped. Either online, or in person.

***Beth M.***

When we moved from Canada, we had no family, and no friends. The bonds of friendship I found here, changed my life, and continue to strengthen me

***Marilyn S.***

We came to St. Stephen after visiting several other churches and joined during the pandemic. We love how welcoming this congregation is, and we love becoming more involved and growing in faith.

***Tom D.***

We didn't have a church, and when we came to St. Stephen, we found a community of faith and love. It was even more evident during Covid.

***Lin. M***

I have never been more excited by a church picnic! Being able to gather again refreshes my soul.

***Joan H.***

I think what I love most about St. Stephen is that by grace we are connected, and always open to new people and the gifts they bring to share God's grace and abundance.

***Pastor Beth***

How would you answer this question?

We give thanks for the wonderful community we participate in at St. Stephen! God is active here and we look forward to how we can help keep this ministry vibrant in the coming year.

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### SEEK IN PRAYER GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR GIVING

What do we tend to do when the church asks for our support?

The common tendency is to consult our partner, our budget, our bills, our income, our tax situation, our investments, our account, etc., and then determine what we can afford to spare.

Instead, as Christians, we come at this question from a different angle. We seek to discover what God's will is for us in our giving.

We seek this through prayer. Prayer is an important part of the Christian life. The decision on how much to give should not be made without seeking in prayer what God would have us do and listening for the voice of God in the prayer conversation.

Giving to the church is not merely a financial transaction. Giving to the church is a part of our prayer life, part of our faithful response to God's abundant grace.

