

# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

232 Durham Road  
Madison, Connecticut 06443

walk  
in  
Love

September 28, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this appeal, I find myself meditating on a line we all hear just about every Sunday at our worship services: "**Walk in love**, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God." --*Ephesians 5:2*

Each week, after the exchange of the Peace, and a few announcements about our shared life as a community, those words customarily begin the next movement in our liturgy – the Offertory. The Offertory is a reminder of God's lavish generosity expressed most fully in Jesus' marvelous and costly self-giving. And, it invites us to participate imitatively in Christ's daring love. So, as we prepare the altar during the Offertory, we bring to the table symbols of the varied gifts which we, mindful of God's hospitality, yearn to offer in return.

Our offerings are many - participation in readying the space for worship, bread and wine ("formed of the earth and made by human hands," as one of our Eucharistic prayers puts it), music (in the form of an offertory anthem or hymn), monetary contributions, and ourselves ("our souls and bodies," as another Eucharistic prayer states). Those gifts generously proffered allow St. Andrew's to deepen our life together as a community of Christ's disciples and apostles striving to **walk in love**.

Your contributions help us enhance worship in an array of liturgical styles. They provide our children and youth, and even adults, with formative opportunities to learn and exemplify Gospel faith. They ensure companionship and care for those among us experiencing joyful, or sorrowful, occasions in our personal lives. They foster our bonds with our neighbors – whether in Madison, along the Shoreline, in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, or even across the globe. They undergird our efforts to venture out to participate in God's mission.

In recent months, with your support, St. Andrew's has participated in the resettlement of a refugee family from Afghanistan, helped staff a vibrant ecumenical Vacation Bible School in Madison, offered an Arts Camp here in the parish, funded schooling for two orphans in Uganda, sponsored a mission trip to Maine, and grown fresh produce for the local food pantry.

There is much happening in our effort to **walk in love**. And we dare to dream of greater growth and flourishing.

Please consider prayerfully how you might be bold in helping us realize this goal. We need you, as we seek to make more fruitful our collective life of faith!

