



St. CHRISTOPHER
Episcopal Church



Walk in love, as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2

Dear St. Christopher Family,

During my time here as your Interim Rector, I have come to know a church that is full of love. And that love is shown in so many ways. It is evident in the way you care for one another. It is apparent in your outreach to the community. It is obvious in the joy I see in your faces as we worship together each Friday and Sunday. And that love is clearly expressed in your generosity.

Generosity is a journey; it's a practice that we learn and nurture within our hearts. It just isn't in our nature to give away what we have worked hard to acquire or to donate our precious time without compensation. It takes something as radical as Love to inspire us to share our wealth, works, and wisdom with others. This is a journey we make together, a Walk in Love.

As we have lived with the Gospel of St. Matthew this year, you have experienced some changes in the life of your beloved church. God has called your previous Rector, Father Brian, to new ministry opportunities in another place. You have seen a few of your church family members move on for various reasons, and you have welcomed even more new families who have chosen to make St. Christopher their church home. Some of you have accepted new responsibilities as committees have been formed to begin the search for a new Rector. Your Vestry is actively re-engaging in your vision for the campus master plan, and feasibility studies are beginning.

We all know that with change comes anxiety and uncertainty, and we may find ourselves worrying about what the future holds as we seek the way forward. And the best cure for worry is the simplest concept of Love. Jesus causes a revolution of thought and heart by daring to reach out to the outcast and teach others to do the same. He walks in love with the marginalized, with the poor, with the sick, with the grieving, and brings us along with him on his journey.

The most miraculous gift of Love is that it was there within us all along; all we had to do was find it, tap into it, and begin growing it. And look what happened? We learned to share, to give, to volunteer, to accompany others, to feed, to pray, to visit, to strive for change, to grow in faith. This year as our Stewardship Campaign kicks off with the theme of *Walk in Love*, I invite you to share with one another your stories of inspiration and connection with our shared ministry in this place. I also invite you to prayerfully consider giving generously, as your resources allow, from your wealth, works, and wisdom in the coming year. In this season of transition and change, your generosity is more critical than ever. I invite you to *Walk in Love* together, as you move toward a future of hope and fruitfulness that is St. Christopher. God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Ted Smith
Interim Rector