

CHRIST BEFORE US



SHARE ABUNDANTLY IN
EVERY GOOD WORK
2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

2025 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Dear Friends of Durham Parish,

As we begin this year's Annual Pledge Campaign, I want first to thank those of you who have supported 'Old Durham' over the years, and to welcome those who are just coming alongside us. Our church continues to be able to 'feed souls' through Fish Fries and Joe's Place, to support our local elementary school families, and to gather, sing, and worship together because of the faithful financial support of friends like you.

This year's annual giving theme, *Christ Before Us*, comes from Bishop Mariann Budde's address to our diocesan convention in January. Anticipating a turbulent year to come, she urged us all to anchor ourselves in our faith, meditating on the words of the prayer attributed to St. Patrick:

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

For many of us this year, our church communities have kept us grounded and supported in our faith through great uncertainty and anxiety. It is clearer than ever that we need each other. The invitation to give to your church is an invitation to invest in a community that proclaims and lives out God's great love for all people. In a world often marked by division and indifference, our investment of treasure signals our hope and our commitment to keep Christ before us, today and every day, loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

During the coming year at Old Durham, we seek to deepen our ability to build and sustain the kingdom of God as we seek to continue the good work set in motion by our participation in Tending Our Soil. Your continued financial support will be crucial in our ability to accomplish these goals. We know that it is not enough to simply believe, but that we must act on that faith to serve our neighbors. You already do this all the time, in so many ways.

You will find a pledge card for 2026 on our website. We ask for your financial support so that Durham Church can continue to join Jesus in caring for others and healing our world.

If you have any questions, or would like to further discuss making a financial gift to the church, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Catharine T. Gibson, Rector

DURHAM PARISH

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