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“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above...” James 1:17, NRSV

Dear Friends in Christ,

Every message about our pledge campaign begins with Gratitude, and I am so very grateful for all the ways that this community has met the challenges of this year and found common ways to share a community of love and joy with our neighbors. Thank you.

Our campaign theme this year is about Every Perfect Gift, and reminds us how everything that we receive and everything we give comes from God. In Father Michael's letter to us recently, he focused our attention on the gift of Time in the trifacta of *Time, Talent, and Treasure*. I would like to highlight the gift of Talent.

Talents, the blessings with which we are imbued by our Creator, are even more beautiful when they are freely given, as I have seen you do so often in our life together. Talents are a double gift – by Grace you have received them, by Grace and you generously share them.

“Well I am not talented! What can I give?” some might say. But you are, each of you, wonderfully gifted. I have heard it in the voices of our musicians and of those loud singers among you – angelic! I have appreciated your talent in the way you give your wisdom, counsel, and experience to our committees, and guilds! We see it manifest in the way you raise your families and teach your children to be loving! I have tasted your talent in meals left on doorsteps and treats shared at coffee hours and potlucks! Each of you has something you do well, and I am grateful that you share those talents with our community and our neighbors.

As you receive your pledge materials this year, and learn more about Every Perfect Gift, please know that your guidance and support are deeply appreciated by me and by this community. I thank you for sharing your gifts with us.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Bond
Senior Warden