

Today's Wisdom piece is written by Chris Camillo. Chris is a member of our Flower Guild, a leader of our Giving Garden ministry, and has helped with youth and Sunday School programs for many years.

As we consider our stewardship pledges for 2021, I would like to share three ways in which being a member of St. Peters in the Woods has touched and impacted my life, and my family's.

Children's and Youth Ministries

I have always felt grateful that my two children have been able to benefit from the many offerings within Saint Peters in the Woods (SPW) Children's and Youth Ministries, including Sunday School and confirmation classes, lock-ins, Messy Church, and mission trips, to name a few. In fact, it was the strength of these ministries that convinced me to join SPW 10 years ago. Although the church has recently had to put some of these activities on hold, due to the pandemic, my children and I know that by staying involved in these ministries now, and helping to plan for their future, we will continue to grow in our faith and remain in fellowship with other children and youth in the congregation.



Giving Garden

Collaborating with members of the Creation Care Committee and our youth to produce vegetables to help alleviate food insecurity in our community, has given me a renewed sense of purpose within the church and enabled me to feel less isolated from other members of our congregation during the pandemic. Working in the garden has also helped me feel a greater sense of calm, as I have watched our plants go through a normal growing cycle, notwithstanding all the uncertainty that has surrounded us with COVID-19. I'm also reminded, every time that I harvest and deliver our donations to UMC Burke, or help out at the Garden of Hope in Arlington, that we are just one church within a much broader regional faith community and that by pooling our resources with other congregations we can more effectively meet emergency food needs in our area.



Flower Guild

In the time that I have served on the Flower Guild, I have made at least 50 different arrangements for our altar. Yet what I've enjoyed the most about our guild is not the process of making my own arrangements, but the camaraderie that always exists when we all get together before Christmas and Easter and have a chance to chat, laugh, and share a snack while working together on our holiday creations. It is this face-to-face collaboration and fellowship that has made the Flower Guild truly special to me.



For all these reasons, and others, I will faithfully make my pledge this week in support of SPW's 2021 Stewardship Campaign, "One Together."