

Stewardship 2023

You've no doubt heard about the plight of the monarch butterfly and its official designation as an endangered species. The fact that thousands of gardens, big and small, are being planted to help these glorious insects along their migratory path gives us all great hope, and scientists are seeing an uptick in their population.

There's a similar story to be told about churchgoers. Despite our societal need for community and for a place where we contemplate our relationship to God and one another, national attendance is waning. But we can learn from the butterflies and the gardeners who tend to their needs. We can create a church that, like a butterfly garden, will feed our members spiritually, feed our neighbors literally, and attract seekers like ourselves.

How do we tend God's garden? We do this in many ways, starting with **stewardship**. Every year, we ask you to pledge so that our skilled staff can build programs for youth and seniors, lead our choir in song, conduct liturgy and assist us in our journeys with Christ. Your support also helps our many lay leaders lead ministries and programs like the choir, Parish Life, Outreach, Altar Guild and events that benefit our neighbors. And your support will help in our search for a permanent rector. Your participation in the life of our church -- and your financial support -- helps St. Stephen's reaffirm its commitment "to know, to love, and to serve Christ."



TENDING
GOD'S
GARDEN
STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

ST. STEPHEN'S ORINDA
66 ST. STEPHEN'S DRIVE
ORINDA, CA 94563

You will strengthen and expand our community, much like planting a garden for butterflies.

We launched our stewardship drive on Sunday, November 6, and as promised, we are following up to ask you to pledge. Pledging is vital because it allows us to budget and plan for our day-to-day activities and for our special ministries.

For questions on how to pledge and give, please see the FAQ included in this mailing. And if you have any specific questions, please reach out to Maria Hjelm at 925-457-1500.

We thank you for responding to our invitation to pledge and to tend God's garden. We hope that by doing so, you will deepen your connection to this community, and like the monarch butterfly, you will be strengthened on your journey.

Join us on **Sunday, December 4** to return your pledges and celebrate the completion of this campaign.

In gratitude,

Angie Bailie

Chuck Muenchow

Janey and Mike McWhorter

Louise Severy

St. Stephen's Stewardship Committee

P.S. And we have a plan to create a real butterfly garden in the upper parking lot, so that monarch butterflies (and other pollinators) can find the nourishment and shelter they need along their migratory path at St. Stephen's. Watch for more information about this effort!