



# Generosity at Bethesda

## God's Initiative

The whole of creation is infused with generosity. The very act of creation in the Book of Genesis reminds us that our existence results from God's imaginative desire for relationship and that God created humankind in that image of generous relationship. Throughout scripture, stories abound of humanity turning away from God's loving ways and God constantly restoring and healing in acts of generous love. God's initiative in reaching us when we turn away culminates in God's ultimate act of generosity: the Incarnation. God creates, loves, forgives, and heals freely without asking anything in return.

## Life More Abundant

As we broaden our vision to see the enormity of God's love and God's abundant gifts of creation and life, we become aware that we have more than enough to share. We begin to see that God's infinite grace and generosity inspire and incite our own generosity. We begin to see that giving generously deepens us; it fuels our faith and spiritual growth. By learning to give freely and out of a sense of abundance, we enhance our own lives, our own experience of fullness and joy multiplying beyond measure. Generosity is a dynamic force, a gift from God, joy building upon joy, a circle that feeds on itself, sowing the seeds and reaping the rewards. Giving begets giving, as rain feeds the clouds, and it rains again.

## Holy Courage

True generosity requires us to examine what is meaningful in our lives: where we place our priorities and how we nurture those priorities. Throughout scripture God assures us over and over again that we are never alone and that we have no need to be afraid. With the confidence of faith, then, we can boldly respond to God's generosity with our own generosity. We can do so assured of abundance and the freedom that comes with giving and serving God. God's grace sustains us with holy courage, the blessed comfort that allows us to live fully into God's call for our lives.

## Bethesda and Beyond

Generosity is infinite; it is not limited by geographic scope or time and transcends both. As our practice of generosity deepens our faith and joy, Bethesda bears witness to the past and simultaneously calls us into the future. We are all the custodians of this legacy, and in this, God calls us into that greater awareness of generosity, of abundance, and of selflessness in order to steward this holy place. It is our privilege to care for what is now and what is to be.