



The Rev. Eric Turner
Rector

October 23, 2022

Dear Friends,

Our 2023 Stewardship Campaign is underway, and Sunday, November 13 is our designated "Pledge Sunday."

As Christians, we believe that not only are we a gift from God, but that all we possess are gifts from God. We all possess time (in varying amounts), talents (of varying levels), and treasure (our assets and income). At this time of year we are asked to reflect and to project how we can return these gifts to St. John's in the year 2023.

Projecting our 2023 operating expenses, St. John's will be impacted by inflation (just like all of us). Without any personnel pay raises, St. John's will encounter a significant increase in expenses. A couple of our significant "givers" will be moving out of the area, but we pray that some of our continuing and even new members will compensate for that loss.

As was mentioned in previous Stewardship campaigns, the biblical standard for giving is the tithe (10% of our income); and while many of us fall short of this standard, we suggest that you consider a long range plan of pledging more each year. Because of the inflation that will impact St. John's in 2023, we suggest and urge that you significantly increase your pledge this year.

We anticipate that inflation, plus the loss of known pledgers moving out of the area, will leave us with a gap of at least \$10,000 and possibly as high as \$18,000 or even \$20,000 for 2023. While we are seeing a steady flow of new members, it is not yet making up for pandemic losses and we do not anticipate that this will be enough to fill this gap.

We are each committed to do what we are able to help bridge this gap, and we ask that you prayerfully commit to the same.

Included with this letter is your official 2023 pledge card. You can place the completed pledge card in the offering plate at church or you can mail it to St. John's in the enclosed return envelope on or before Sunday, November 13. Please make every effort to submit the completed cards on time. The Vestry needs your input in a timely manner in order to approve St. John's 2023 budget. You can also submit your completed pledge card online by going to the St. John's website: stjohnsmlb.org.

The Stewardship Committee's purpose is to promote the long-term health and vitality of St. John's, and your financial contributions are an integral part of building that legacy.

Thanks for your prayerful and generous support.

The Stewardship Committee

Katherine Codlin-Wilson, Fr. Terry Highland, Jack Kenworthy (Chair)