



The Rev. Eric Turner
Rector

October 22, 2023

Dear Friends,

We love and appreciate St. John's Episcopal Church in Melbourne for several reasons: our Episcopalian liturgy – challenging sermons – opportunities to enact God's love by undertaking ministries within our church and through our outreach programs – friendly congregation – our beautiful historic sanctuary with its charming stained glass windows – our talented musicians. These are only some of the reasons that we realize the importance of preserving, protecting, and sustaining the life of St. John's Episcopal Church in Melbourne.

While every November we may feel uncomfortable about the topic of "stewardship," we all recognize that we want to continue to preserve, protect, and sustain the life of St. John's. Our treasurer, Elizabeth Chludzinski, and the vestry need your input (in the form of a completed pledge card) in order to realistically and responsibly approve a budget for 2024.

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), **talent** (of varying types), and **treasure** (our income and assets). At this time of year we are asked to reflect and project how we can return these gifts to St. John's in the year 2024.

How much should I pledge? Early budget estimates suggest that an average annual pledge in the neighborhood of \$2500 to \$3000 (\$50 to \$60 weekly) would sustain our budget. Some are in a position to pledge significantly more than that and do. Some are not able and do the best that they can (even a little bit is encouraged). Everyone's contribution is equally important.

Included with this letter is your official 2024 pledge card. You can place the completed pledge card in the enclosed envelope and place the envelope in the offering plate at church, or you can mail it to St. John's on or before **Sunday, November 12, 2023**. 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 2024 budget. You can also submit your completed pledge card online by going to 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.

Thank you for your prayerful and generous support.

The Stewardship Committee
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