



St. John's Episcopal Church

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The Reverend David F. Sellery

Priest-in-Charge

Everything we have comes from the Lord, and we give only what He has given us. 1 Chronicles 29:14

Dear Parishioner,

We are entering another season of giving and thanks giving. So, thank you for your faithful, prayerful support. There simply would be no St. John's without your commitment and generosity.

Together we have made great progress this year: putting in more hours, providing more pastoral services, being more welcoming, creating more opportunities for fellowship, preserving the reverence and beauty of our worship. Special thanks to the parish leadership - who have given themselves so selflessly and competently to take on the many challenges we have faced this year. Beyond the beauty of our buildings and grounds, is the greater fundamental goodness of our ministry. 2015 has been a year of doing much more with less. The corporate world calls it "productivity." We call it good stewardship - realistically setting priorities, vigorously controlling costs, working harder, working smarter.

We are moving in the right direction, but the financial challenges at St. John's have been a long time in the making and certainly not all our own. Ideally, our pledges should cover the fixed expenses of the Church. This year we will have received pledges of \$180,000 against a budget of about \$300,000 with the rest made up by multiple other sources. However, coming up with an extra \$120,000 every year is not fully sustainable. We invite you to join us **on Sunday November 15, as we gather for "One Service for All"** followed by Brunch and a brief presentation on our Annual Appeal. Please come with you questions and comments. Your treasurer will be available to talk about our income and expenses in detail

Praising God, Serving Neighbor

at the meeting. Our **Annual Commitment Sunday will be on Sunday, November 22**, at which time we ask that all Pledge Cards be returned to the Church.

As you think about what St. John's means to you and how you can help sustain the ministry here, please consider making an increase in your pledge. We do not expect to cover all our fixed expenses overnight, and we already have a plan to lower those over time, but we wanted to be as transparent as possible about what we need to do to sustain our ministry well into the future.

As committed Christians, we face the future confidently, knowing that everything we have comes from God. We hold our lives and everything about us for such a short time, before we must give it all back to Him. Joyful giving acknowledges this profound fact of our life in Christ. In various translations of first Corinthians, the words "love" and "charity" are used interchangeably. Sacrificial giving is a clear sign of our love.

Please use your pledge to thank Him. Praise Him. Give back from what He has given us. Ultimately, you will find that in Christ we do not give our thanks for being happy, rather we find a much more profound happiness in giving back to God with thanks.

God bless you for all the good you make happen here every day.

Faithfully yours,

The Reverend David F. Sellery
Priest-in-Charge

David Bayersdorfer
Annual Appeal, Chair