



Cross Roads at St. John's

September 14, 2016

Dear Congregation and Friends of St. John's Church,

As we all gather after the summer months, your Vestry wants to follow up with you on the Crossroads meetings held last Spring and early Summer. We continue to consider options and have an upcoming meeting with Dr. Virginia Army our consultant from the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT). This is an important meeting and we will keep you informed as ideas and actions come to fruition.

The Vestry has been extremely gratified by the outpouring of encouragement and financial support by the members of our congregation. While we believe we are closing our budget gap for this year, the ideas we raised with you during the Crossroads meetings will require a sustained effort by all of us with increases in financial contributions a necessity. Many of you have already acknowledged that the bottom line must be increased to meet our goals and to maintain a vital parish community. We are not out of the woods yet, but look forward to the launch of our new stewardship season and want you to know how grateful we are for your continued support. We also heard your desire that St. John's continue to minister with a full time priest and an active music program and we are basing our planning and direction on this assumption.

If you are able to give more this year, it will be put to good use for our mission and ministry. As you think about your pledge for next year, please consider an increase, so we can have less dependence on our endowment. We must demonstrate continued financial commitment to the ECCT in order to call a full time Rector. We invite you to join us in a conscious effort to build and sustain the financial health that will support the kinds of ministries that we are all interested in maintaining.

We are a joyful, warm, and welcoming community. If you have not visited recently we would be delighted to see you. If you need help in getting to St. John's we would be happy to assist you. If you need or want pastoral care, Father Sellery is always ready. If you have time, please consider joining our Stewardship committee. We welcome any and all volunteers.

Stay tuned. There is more to come.

David Bayersdorfer and Karen Byers

Crossroads Presenters for St. John's Vestry