

Giving to St. John's: *How we make a difference in the world*

WHAT *What stewardship means at St. John's:*

St. John's undertakes a dedicated stewardship campaign each fall to encourage members to make a promise to give financial support for the next year's operating expenses and investments. We think about stewardship more broadly however; stewardship is more than a season, and about more than financial giving. Stewardship is about *gratitude* for the abundant gifts God has given us, and how giving *generously* out of that abundance can change our outlook and nurture our relationship with God and others.

WHY *From our Rector, Susan Pinkerton:*

"Through our worship, pastoral care and the many ministries at St. John's, we experience God's grace working in our lives in ways we could never imagine. God's abundant love transforms and shapes how we see ourselves and how we act in the world, as we become more aware of the many blessings that grace our lives. With this deepened awareness, we understand that all that we have and all that we are comes from God."

HOW *Your participation:*

We are seeking deep and meaningful engagement across the parish, while meeting people where they are in their lives and situations. From a financial appeal standpoint, we ask that you consider the following:

- The cost to run St. John's is more than \$3,000 annually per active member family.
 - *As the wardens explained in their letter to the parish in September, we fund church operations and good works through our pledges, gifts, events, offerings and use of endowment resources. To use our resources effectively for many years to come, we need more annual gifts so we become less reliant on our endowment for current operations.*
- We receive pledges from roughly 50% of our total membership.
 - *We need this percentage to be higher, both to raise more funds (to sustain as well as to grow our programs and expand our services), as well as to increase engagement across our community. Greater engagement brings benefits far beyond financial ones, as St. John's ministries are energized and expanded, to become even more of a positive presence in people's lives.*
- The average current-year pledge is \$3,200.
 - *We do not expect that all parishioners can pledge at this average level. We hope nonetheless that all of our active members can make a financial contribution at some level — whatever that level is.*

We appreciate your consideration of financial support for St. John's, as well as your overall contributions to our worship and ministries, as we work together to share the word of God among us and across our community.