

October 1, 2018

Dear Friends,

With the advent of autumn and the turning of the leaves into vibrant shades of red, orange and yellow, I am reminded of the goodness of God's creation, this earth, our island home. You and I are both part of and recipients of these wondrous, creative works of God. How fortunate we are to be entrusted with the care of the abundant resources at St. John's, enabling us to be a growing and faithful presence in our community and to each other, while serving those in need.

I am reaching out to invite you to be part of this good work, engaging in the ministry of God's mission here at St. John's and in the wider community. Through our worship, pastoral care and the many ministries at St. John's, such as volunteering at Grace Academy, feeding the hungry at Loaves and Fishes, knitting prayer shawls, tending our new community garden, or mentoring and teaching our children and youth, we experience God's love working in the world. Lives are transformed in ways we could never imagine, for both the giver and receiver.

These ministries are part of our vision at St. John's—building bridges of connection with God, each other and even within ourselves. The loving relationships that we form in the process of reaching out to others sustain us and deepen our spiritual awareness of God's presence in our own lives. As with all good things that bring us joy and delight, we want to share what we have so that others can also experience God's abundance. With deep gratitude, we acknowledge all that God has given us, including the most precious gift of all, life itself.

I pray that you will feel inspired to become a part of our vision at St. John's as we begin our annual appeal. Your generous gift will be a vital part of our bridge building, making life-giving connections as we share in God's grace. Please mark November 11th on your calendars as Commitment Sunday, when we will invite our entire parish family to share our pledge offerings in gratitude for God's presence in our lives. In the meantime, please prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to be a part of this good work at St. John's, responding to God's abundant love with a grateful and generous heart.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Pinkerton" with a small cross symbol at the end of the line.

The Reverend Susan Pinkerton
Rector