



SAINT JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06119-1895
Tel: 860.523.5201 | office@sjparish.net | www.sjparish.net

Dear Friends,

I am reaching out to you in love and in thanksgiving that you are a member of our vibrant parish family at St. John's. There are many exciting things happening in our faith community that reflect God's abundant grace transforming people's lives in so many wonderful ways.

This past spring and summer we harvested a bounty of fresh vegetables from our community garden, sharing this abundance with our neighbors in need every Sunday morning. Children from local underserved communities participated in our first summer music camp, experiencing the joy and wonder of music and dance. Our adult and children's choirs had the unique opportunity to sing at both the National Cathedral in Wash. DC and the Cathedral of St. the Divine in NYC this past summer. Our new curate, The Rev. Margie Baker, joined our staff in the spring and is working with a host of volunteers to completely rebuild our children and youth Christian education program, including a Children's Chapel on Sundays.

These are just a few examples of how God's love changes and shapes people's lives both inside and outside the walls of St. John's.

These and the many other ministries at St. John's mirror our theme for this fall's annual appeal, "*Live, Love and Give.*" We have each been given the gift of life and God wants us to *live* it to the fullest. This means living a life this is defined by *love*, opening our hearts to give and receive love. In the process we discover that our lives are richer by the loving relationships we have developed with God, within ourselves and with others. It is only natural for us to *give* out of heart-felt gratitude for God's love that transforms lives in ways we could never anticipate.

I invite you to share in all this good work at St. John's as we begin our annual appeal. Your generosity makes it possible for our community to share in God's mission to the world and to our neighborhood, making a difference in people's lives as we share the abundance of God's love. Commitment Sunday is Nov. 10th when everyone in our parish family will be invited to share their offering to God. Please prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to be a part of this good work as we *live, love and give*, understanding that all that we have and all that we are comes from the loving and generous hand of God.

In deep gratitude,
Susan+
Rector