

St. John's Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Joseph M. Constant, Rector

November 21, 2023

Dear St. John's family and friends,

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for all that we have accomplished at St. John's. With your active participation, we have increased our in-person worship, welcomed new members, embraced visitors, and incorporated our youth in our worship and outreach ministries. The Holy Spirit is alive and active, empowering our community for ministry!

Over the next year, we will offer meaningful worship services both in person and online; offer sound biblical formation for children, youth, and adults; and expand our justice work in Prince George's County and in Haiti. Pledges provide the necessary funding for pastoral care in support of our fellow parishioners, quality online worship, and music ministry. As we prepare for the beginning of a new year, we must budget to maintain our facilities, pay utilities expenses, provide payments for salaries and benefits, and continue our faith journey within the church walls and beyond.

This year's annual giving theme, *Taking the Next Faithful Step*, is inspired by the biblical stories of God's people from Abraham and Moses to Jesus and his disciples, all of whom felt God calling them to move ahead and respond to God's call, even in uncertain times. Here at St. John's, we are taking the next faithful steps in our life as a community.

Included with this mailing is a pledge form for **2024**. As we begin our *Taking the Next Faithful Step* annual giving campaign, we ask you to make a financial pledge so that our beloved parish can continue its work of following Jesus and sharing His love with others. Each individual and household pledge directly impacts St. John's work and mission. Together, we can have a tremendous impact on our friends and our community.

On Sunday, December 3rd, 2023, at the 10:00 a.m. service, we will present our pledges to the altar for God's blessings on our sacrificial offering. Your pledge helps us live into our mission **to share God's love with everyone to bring hope and change lives**. Thank you for your willingness to offer your gifts of time, talent, and treasure to sustain and grow our work and ministries.

If you have any questions or would like to further discuss making a financial pledge to St. John's, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Joseph M. Constant

Stewardship Co-Chairs: Elsie E. Kirton and Suzanne Hurge-Moore