



The Campaign for St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church

2175 First Street White Bear Lake, MN 55110-3488

April 4, 2005

Campaign Leadership

Co-Chairs
Foss and Bev Boyle

Committee
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Joe Afryl
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John Kobinski
Jim Kroesch
Judy Kroesch
Alma Limbach
Tom Long
Barbara Merrill
Terry Rooney
David Seitz
Joann Smith
Joanna Torgerson
Barbara VanSteen
Janet Waller
Avis Watkins
Nat Watkins

Dear Parishioner,

We are writing to inform you of a very important effort which will begin on April 4, 2005: the Campaign for St. John in the Wilderness.

The campaign work actually began on March 20, 2004 when a Vestry strategic planning session identified the need for a comprehensive fund drive. The work continued during the summer of 2004 with a feasibility study whereby 30 households were interviewed to determine if such a comprehensive Campaign should take place at this time. The study clearly showed that we should undertake such a campaign. This is fundamentally due to the fact that our new Clergy are providing tremendous leadership for the parish. The people interviewed in the feasibility study felt the parish is on the move. Attendance is up, and a new vigor is evident throughout our church programs. Strong lay leadership which augments our clergy leadership has brought us to where we are today: blessed with a vital, spirit-filled faith community and contemplating an even greater ministry for ourselves and St. John's through an ambitious strategic plan to be underwritten by the Campaign.

Today St. John's is at an important crossroads in its ministry and community life. Three critical challenges are facing the Church:

- Preserve, protect and update our historic Church facility
- Staff the Church and new programs to encourage and sustain growth, and
- Finance the future through a capital and endowment campaign

The Campaign will provide us with funds to address each of these three vital areas and assure our future as an independent and vibrant Episcopal Community.

Our goal is to raise or surpass \$750,000, and we have set up a canvass calling organization to make personal calls on all parishioners. This type of campaign is run very infrequently, so we ask that you carefully consider your gift. Since this is a three-year campaign your pledge can be paid at any time during the three-year period up to December, 2007. We are pleased to report that the advanced gifts phase of the Campaign has raised \$535,000, and we are very hopeful of meeting our goal.

We hope you will join us in this very important event in the life of the parish, and make a campaign pledge which resonates with extraordinary generosity and dedication to St. John's.

The Rev. Mark Wm. Kelm
Rector

Fosten and Beverly Boyle
Campaign Co-Chairpersons