



The Episcopal Church of

St. John in the Wilderness

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September 26, 2004

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

What an exciting and dynamic year we have seen at St. John in the Wilderness!

We have seen additions to our clergy staff and with it our ability to minister to the spiritual needs of many different communities within the church. We continue to have strong and dynamic programs in worship and liturgy, outreach, adult and youth education, and many other areas. We have seen several changes to the church building that enhance its beauty and functionality.

To all those that have helped bring about these changes I say a heartfelt, "Thank You."

It is that time of year when we are all asked to consider how to continue and nourish this growth for the future through an annual stewardship pledge for 2005.

Giving of one's financial support is a very personal matter. Nearly every day we are asked to give to some charitable and worthwhile group. What has helped me in my giving is to remember how much St. John in the Wilderness gives back to me. It strengthens all aspects of who I am, spiritually, intellectually, and physically. It provides comfort within a body of prayer and Eucharist, and fellowship with many wonderful people. I realize that I have been receiving much more than I have given.

We have been asked to consider the concept of proportional giving. Each of us is asked to look at the percentage of our income that we currently give and to consider whether we can increase our pledge to the next higher level. A chart explaining the concept in detail is included with this letter.

Fr. Mark and the Vestry have designated November 14th as Commitment Sunday, culminating our stewardship campaign. Each pledge is important and will help us in setting and implementing plans to strengthen and grow this parish in 2005.

As we move forward in this time of commitment, please reflect on what St. John's means to you. I hope you will consider what you are able to give as an expression of its importance in your life.

In Faith,

Joe Afryl
Co-Chair
Annual Stewardship Appeal