

We are writing to ask you to consider making a commitment to the St. John in the Wilderness 2009 Pledge Drive. In the 2008 campaign, 65% of our generous members made a pledge to ensure that St. John's remains a growing and thriving congregation. Our goal is to increase participation to 70% by encouraging every household to make a gift at a level that is appropriate for them.

The strength of St. John's lies in the extraordinary partnership between the clergy, congregation and staff who share the vision of making our church a "Program Centered" faith community that values education and outreach. St. John's provides a multitude of services and support groups to meet the needs of members in every stage of their spiritual journey. We could not do this without our incredible clergy under the leadership of Father Mark Kelm.

St. John's annual budget is in the top five of the Episcopal churches in our diocese because generous members are willing to commit the resources necessary to support the ministries that are at the core of our faith. In addition to our Rector, Fr. Mark, we are blessed to have two associate pastors, 2 deacons, a Youth and Children's Minister and a new Music Director. Because of this remarkable staff, St. John's is able to support programs such as the African Friends in Need Network, Habitat for Humanity and unique musical offerings that complement our traditional ministries.

Commitment Sunday is September 28, and we encourage you to reflect on the blessings you have received in your life and consider making a pledge at a level that is comfortable for you.

We also understand that some of our members find it difficult to make a specific commitment, but plan on making gifts throughout the year. If you are unable, or prefer not to make a pledge, but would like to demonstrate your support for St. John's, please return your pledge card and simply note, "I will be a contributor this year." You need not include an amount, but by this act you are demonstrating that you value our faith community, and plan to support it.

Support for St. John's is an investment that demonstrates that you believe in our mission to "gather in love to serve".

With your help, St. John in the Wilderness will have the resources necessary to grow, thrive and serve the spiritual needs of its members as it has since 1860.

John Fennig
Chair, Stewardship Committee