



*“All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.”  
Hymn 291 (We plow the fields and scatter)*

September 21, 2024

Dear St. John's Community,

What a year it has been in your presence! As the hymn says, we are surrounded by good gifts on every side, and God's generosity to us is evident in many ways. In my time at St. John's, I have been overwhelmed by your generosity of time, talent, and treasure. I have learned that when I felt concerned about what I could do or give on my own, you have always been there offering more and better.

This year we have watched our community grow with the addition of 29 households. We have welcomed the newly baptized, said goodbye to old friends who have gone home to God, and marveled at baptisms exceeding funerals two to one. We have begun implementing a Capital Reserve Study, funded by a generous donor, which has put us ahead of the curve with respect to what needs to be done to our buildings and grounds. Our parish day school is at capacity enrollment and financially stable. We have eaten and laughed and raised money at Bee Social and will soon do so at Oktoberfest. We have welcomed a brand new Planned Giving effort as we seek to bolster our financial stability. We have contributed thousands of plastic bags to help our newly minted J2A group reach a thousand-pound plastic bag collection goal so that we can receive a new TREX bench. Our meeting rooms are filled with small groups and formation for all ages, as well as community groups. Our grounds are alive with flowers and trees carefully tended by volunteers. The labyrinth is a special way to welcome all to our grounds to walk a holy path. The frailest and neediest in our greater community are given pastoral care or literally fed, if that is what is needed. Our music program is not only what we offer in during worship, it is a year-round opportunity for this community to experience music from our choir, the ASH Band, bell ringers, and vocal and instrumental soloists.

*(continued)*

As we enter our two hundred and second year, an important transition is ahead of us. In 2025, we hope to call a new rector. This coming year is an opportunity to continue the successes that the last year has brought as well as add new opportunities to grow as a church that welcomes all and seeks to be faithful to the greater community. With a change in clergy leadership to a tenured rector, we believe that who we are and what we have to offer in Christ will only deepen.

This is a critical year for our annual giving. We need to be able to provide for our many and varied ministries and **because we will be calling a new rector, we will need to provide the benefits of a full-time clergy person that include pension and health insurance.** (I am retired and do not need these benefits.) This will be a financial stretch for us. Over 80% of the annual budget is made possible by the generous gifts and pledges of the people of St. John's. For your reference, a summary of what you have pledged and given in 2024 is at the bottom of this letter

This is your invitation to pray about all the good gifts around you that God in Christ has given to you. In thanksgiving for those gifts, you are invited to pledge to the 2025 Annual Campaign for Mission and Ministry at St. John's Church. May the love of God give you a thankful heart. I know that same love will empower St. John's to do more than we can ask for, or imagine.

With a thankful heart,



The Rev. Mary Sulerud  
Interim Rector

Members of the Vestry

*Gordon Knox*, Senior Warden  
*Geoff Walker*, Junior Warden  
*Doug Hall*, Treasurer  
*Clare Brooks*, Registrar

*Rebecca Daugherty*, *Lucy Eldridge*, *Susan Fedors*,  
*Scott Geist*, *Tom Goss*, *David Hale*, *Katie Kelel*,  
*Kim Kerry*, *Janet Loughran*, *Lucia Martin*, & *Marsha Trant*



# 2025 PLEDGE FORM

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ PREFERRED PRONOUNS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

In gratitude for Every Perfect Gift I/we have received,  
I/we pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 2025.

**Please take the following steps to pledge:**

- 1) Complete this 2025 Pledge Form in hard copy or online at [www.stjohnsec.org/2025-pledge](http://www.stjohnsec.org/2025-pledge).  
*Please Note: Simply setting up payments in the Member Portal (Realm) does not give us all the information needed to properly record your annual pledge.*
- 2) Plan for making payments.

I will pay my pledge by:

- Credit card: I will set up payments in Realm/Member Portal account at <https://bit.ly/SJEC-GiveNow> You will be asked to give a credit card processing fee.
- Automatic Bill Pay: I will contact my bank to authorize payments to SJEC.  
Recurring payments originally set up in ACS (the old member portal) need to end on Dec. 31st. You will need to set up recurring payments in Realm (new member portal) for 2025.
- Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT): I will contact Kathy Hahn, Finance Director, at [khahn@stjohnsec.org](mailto:khahn@stjohnsec.org) to set up (or renew) my monthly EFT.
- Cash or Check: I need giving envelopes. Yes  No
- Stock Donation: Please contact me about making my gift through stocks or securities.
- IRA Distribution (70.5 years or older): I will contact Kathy Hahn for more information.

*If you need assistance, please call Kathy Hahn at 410-461-7793, ext. 112.*