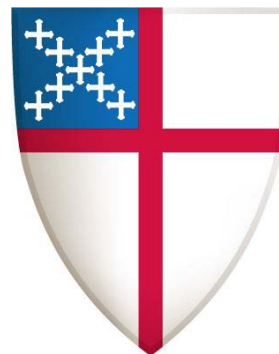


## *Our Future is Now*



Dear Member of St. John's,

It is tempting for a congregation in the midst of a clergy transition to postpone decisions about commitment and the future until a new rector is in place. A "wait and see" mode may feel comfortable in the here and now, but it is unlikely to provide a firm foundation for next steps in a parish's life. For certain, it is a bad strategy for attracting strong rector candidates.

Fortunately, St. John's Church is approaching its transition in a proactive manner. The numerous ministries and activities of our parish remain vibrant and caring. The recently-commissioned Rector Search Committee is now developing a parish profile, and the Vestry is receiving feedback on a draft set of statements that describe our identity. These efforts are central to discerning God's call for our parish. The Vestry also is taking steps to develop a realistic road map for St. John's finances that builds on gifts God has bestowed on our church.

The history of financial contributions to St. John's represents impressive levels of commitment to this parish. Yet, as reported at our annual meeting last February, 40% of pledged contributions to St. John's for 2011 came from the top 9 pledges. Clearly we need to move toward a broader base of support.

Pledges to the 2012 operating budget are essential to calling a new rector from a position of congregational strength. This includes a reasonable salary and housing allowance, excellent staff, supports for our buildings and programs, and one-time expenses for a rector search.

We invite you to determine the worth of St. John's to you and to those who benefit from the parish's ministries. Some parishioners may be doing all they can do for St. John's. Others may be in a position to increase their giving to St. John's, perhaps in a substantial way or as part of a move toward tithing.

We would appreciate your returning the enclosed pledge card by October 30. Please send your card to the church office or place it in the collection plate or the designated basket in the Parish Commons on Sunday. Thank you for considering your financial commitment to St. John's future.

In Christ,

The Rev. Larry Minter  
Interim Rector

Doug Powell  
Rector's Warden

Caryl Matthews  
People's Warden

*St. John's Episcopal Church – 600 Ferry Street – Lafayette, Indiana 47901-1142*