



St. John's Episcopal Church

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November 18, 2023

Greetings,

Commitment Sunday is upon us once again, which we will celebrate on Sunday 11/26, and we will Bless our commitment cards on Sunday 12/3. On Sunday 11/26 you will hear a special sermon about God's Love and Blessings poured out upon us and how we may prayerfully decide to respond. Commitment cards and how we use them at St. John's will also be part of the sermon that day. We respond to God's Love and show our love back to Him by giving back of our time, talent, and treasure.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NRSV)

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

Due to the recent COVID pandemic and attrition, we have a smaller worshipping community and are experiencing a reduction in pledge income. We have had to dip into our reserve unallocated savings account to continue to meet our financial obligations this year. While it is a Blessing to have these funds to help us in this trying time, we can not rely on these funds in a continuing fashion. We prayerfully look to each and everyone of us being able to help meet future needs without using savings.

Even in these challenging times we are fortunate and blessed to be able to reach out to others and help them in their needs. Your Clergy and Vestry are committed to continue to do God's work in reaching out to others. Because of your giving we are able to do this. Below is a partial list of our outreach:

- Delaware Backpack Program
- St. Paul's Bloomville, Food Pantry
- St. James, The Lord's Table, Food Pantry, and meal program
- Food for the Poor, we are giving monthly towards a house for a family in need.
- Beaver Cross Summer Camp and Youth program

We have also been Blessed to make approximately \$19,000.00 of much needed roof repairs to our beautiful church. We applied for and received a \$12,000.00 O'Connor foundation grant to offset much of this cost. Because of donations we

were able to restore more of our stain glass windows this year. We were also able to install two new windows and repair and reinstall storm windows at the rectory.

We look forward to everyone sharing of their time, talent, and treasure in the coming year with God and St. John's church. Please prayerfully consider how you will respond.

A special challenge for the coming church year. "Bring a Friend to Christ"

How do people start attending Church?

A Friend invited me – 86%

Organized visitation – 6%

Priest invitation – 6%

Advertising – 2%

Let's double our attendance, if everyone encourages just 1 person to be a regular part of our church family, we can do that in the coming year. Think of the Blessing it will be to that person.

Our Motto: "Knowing Christ and Making Him Known"

"Bring a Friend to Christ"

Happy Thanksgiving and may you have a Blessed Advent!

The Rev. Art Garno, Rector & St. John's Vestry