

November 14, 2002

Dear Parishioner,

“We believe that every good thing we have and every good thing we are is a gift from God. Therefore, we believe that the appropriate way to make our commitment to God’s work at St. James’ is to give in proportion to our income, that is, in proportion to what we have.”

The above statement of financial commitment was agreed upon by your Vestry as the first step in setting an example for fellow parishioners. Additionally, they are committed to completing the enclosed worksheet and taking the challenge of increasing their pledge accordingly. The consensus of the Vestry members is that they cannot expect others to do something that they are not first willing to do themselves.

The Vestry has also decided to institute a year long stewardship program that will focus on five different aspects of stewardship responsibility and will coincide with the church calendar. At this particular time of year, the Season of Commitment, we need to pray about our personal commitment of time, talent and treasure and how we can participate in God’s work at St. James’.

The enclosed materials are to assist you in this process. Please look at the ministry opportunities that will allow you to participate in God’s work by sharing your time and/or talents with others. Also, please use the enclosed chart to determine your present financial situation and challenge yourself to increase the percentage of your gift of treasure to St. James’. Since **November 24** is Harvest Home Sunday, we would like to have all pledge cards returned by that date. Thank you!

As we approach the Season of Thankfulness, let us begin to think about the many gifts that we are all blessed with and how we can best express our thanks for these gifts. Be mindful of the fact that as Christians we love because we are loved, and we give because we have received.

Peace and love,

Janice Cipriani
Stewardship Committee Chair