

St. Mark's Canvass 2013: *Sharing our Treasures*

9 October 2012

Dear Friends of St. Mark's,

What is it that brings you to St. Mark's? Is it for you a place to celebrate innovative liturgy in a traditional setting? Is it the power of Paul and Justi's sermons or the opportunity to see each other around the altar table? Is it a tasty meal after the 11:15 service?

Perhaps what draws you is the chance to engage in a community of your own choosing, or to take that engagement beyond our walls through Outreach programs. Perhaps you find sustenance in adult Christian Education classes, or are pleased that your children are sparked by Sunday school. And maybe you are a newcomer here and you are still trying it on for size.

Whatever St. Mark's is to you and keeps you coming back, I welcome you and I am so glad that you are here.

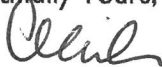
What does St. Mark's ask of you? Only that which you are ready to give. You may simply show up on Sunday for a worship service and leave it at that. If you find that you are seeking a deeper relationship with our community, traditionally you are asked to share with us, as you are able, your time, your talents and your money. There are ample ways to volunteer your time and energy, from making meals for the homeless to serving in a parish leadership position. You may wish to add your voice to the choir or help to craft our liturgy.

Every fall, we launch our annual membership Canvass. This is a time of discernment, when everyone who is a part of this parish is asked to give what we are willing and able to give in the coming calendar year. To flourish in the coming year as we have flourished in the last 145 years, St. Mark's needs all of the treasures we are able to give—our time, talents *and* money.

I urge you to consider giving to the Canvass this fall, making a financial commitment to our shared faith community. It is through the Canvass that we can realize our goal of raising approximately \$900,000. This is what it will cost to keep the church running in 2013. With contributions from you and other new members, we can ensure the stability of our programs, we can pay our clergy and staff something close to what they are worth, and we can keep the lights on.

In this mailing you will find more information about pledging to the annual stewardship Canvass, including a draft budget for 2013, a Pledging Primer, and a pledge form. I hope that this material will help to clarify both how and why to give. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Faithfully Yours,



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Senior Warden

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