

## Celebrate the Gift!

October 2016

Dear Friends,

We have all been given such a wonderful gift in St. Luke's. We write to invite you to help us celebrate it.

Don't you agree that we have inherited such a beautiful worship space and facilities? St. Luke's Church is vibrant and flourishing today with outstanding music under the direction of Dr. Brian Harlow, with a meaningful but fun-filled children's ministry under the leadership of Helene O'Neill, and with an active, inspiring, youth group lead by Norm Penney. We have opportunities to grow deep in faith with Bible studies and Alpha. We have many groups and ministries that offer opportunities to enjoy the warmth of Christ's love while serving others such as the Fair, the annual Guatemala Mission trip, and at the Community Soup Kitchen.

But our blessings aren't just about programs and facilities. We have been blessed by God with such a gifted, fun, caring and active group of people at St. Luke's. We enjoy each other's company at events like the Fall Party, the Christmas Party, Lobsterfest and the Auction.

And still there is more. Undergirding it all, in it all, around it all, within us all is the Holy Spirit. God is present; He is with us. He sent His only Son to die so that we might have life. The risen Lord Jesus Christ is with us even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)

**Let us celebrate! This year we are celebrating Christ's love.** This year we pause in gratitude to say "thanks be to God" that we have such a gift in St. Luke's. The world seems to grow more dangerous, chaotic and insane every day, but we have a home at St. Luke's. It is our place, our people, our fellowship with God, and our spiritual home.

Giving is about gratitude. **Giving back is a way to acknowledge that the blessings we have come from above. Giving can be liberating and joyful.** In giving we are far more blessed than when we are receiving, as Jesus said. (Acts 20:35) **This year our stewardship campaign is focused on gratitude and celebration.**

We don't ask you to give to St. Luke's merely out of duty, or because it is the right thing to do – though it is. We don't ask you to give because we need financial resources to keep St. Luke's the thriving vital place for all that it is – though we do. **We ask you to give as a way of saying "Thank You, God for the gift of St. Luke's that helps me know Your love."** We don't ask you to give begrudgingly but rather to find the joy and celebration in giving. We ask you to give in gratitude in proportion to how grateful you are for God's blessings and the blessing of St. Luke's. We ask you to estimate your giving in a pledge that celebrates the gift. We ask you to give as God has enabled you to give. **Sometimes just a widow's two copper coins are worth millions in God's eyes.**

Please prayerfully consider the enclosed pledge card and chart, returning your pledge before November 20th or at the in-gathering in worship that Sunday. We celebrate you and thank God for you no matter what you decide to do. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for being a part of our parish family at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

The Lord be With You,

*Kent*

Kent Walley  
Rector

*Stan*

Stan Hays  
Warden

*John*

John Gallup  
Warden

*Roger*

Roger Fischer  
Stewardship Chair

*Pam*

Pamela Craven  
Stewardship Co-chair