ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Dear Friends of St. John's,

Last year, we embraced the message of Sharing the Kingdom – reaching out to our congregation, our ministry partners, Centreville, and beyond – with the good news of God's kingdom of love and justice. This year, our theme expands: **Growing the Kingdom.**

GROWING THE KINGDOM

Prayerfully consider your financial commitment to St. John's for 2027, and make your pledge today. Your gifts ensure that St. John's continues to grow in Christian faith, service, and community.

God's Vineyard. In our Scriptures, growth is never for its own sake. Growth is always tied to purpose — to bearing fruit, to laboring in God's vineyard, to reaching others with the good news of God's kingdom. With so much vineyard imagery in the Bible and recent readings, we've added vines to last year's logo as a reminder of growth in God's mission. The vineyard traditionally symbolizes God's cherished people (Isaiah 5:1-7), the coming kingdom (Matthew 21:33-45), and our own work and participation in God's justice and mercy (Matthew 20:1-16). Jesus is our vine (John 15:1-17). Holding on to Christ, we plant, water, and tend, and God gives growth (1 Corinthians 3:6).

St. John's in 2026. This year, St. John's has continued to grow in the ways that matter most. We celebrated the official installation of our new Rector and welcomed a new ministry partner administrator to our office. When the Bishop visited in the spring, we rejoiced as several members were confirmed or received into the church. Although our largest tenant departed earlier than expected, they left behind an upgraded parish hall — and we are now in promising conversations with two new tenants: an adult day care and a preschool. Our outreach continues to expand with energy and creativity. In addition to our ongoing ministries — the Creation Care garden, backpacks, Hanley House dinners, Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, and more – parishioners are driving neighbors in need to important appointments and providing warm socks with our latest ministry Socktober.

"For me to give, the mission has to resonate. Why do I give to St. John's? Healing, Hope, and Hospitality resonates. Our giving shows us how far we can reach together."

Looking Ahead. Our fundamentals are strong. Worship attendance continues to rise. Formation programs like our Bible study and Education for Ministry (EfM) remain vibrant. While maintenance on a historic property is never-ending, we are keeping pace with our budget and caring faithfully for the buildings entrusted to us. Following our Mutual Ministry Review this spring, we set long-term goals in one-, three-, and five-year increments — and we are making steady progress. Looking ahead, we hope to improve our website and online presence, carry out needed repairs on our historic church, create new space for our music program, and install a playground in anticipation of welcoming a new preschool tenant.

All of this is possible because of you — your generosity, your prayers, your presence, and your commitment to **Growing the Kingdom** here at St. John's. And our hopes for the next year will only be realized with that same or greater generosity and commitment. As we enter our annual giving season, we invite you to support this work with a financial pledge. How much will you commit to St. John's in 2027?

"I have pledged to St. John's for 37 years… I find the fellowship and mutual support here to be wonderful, and I find the philosophy of St. John's to be consistent with my beliefs. I love the fact that Father Kevin says every week, 'No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.'"

Make your pledge. Prayerfully consider your financial commitment to St. John's for 2027. Please fill out the enclosed pledge card to mail or bring to worship–or pledge online right now using the QR code at right. Your gifts ensure that St. John's continues to grow in faith, service, and community. Our costs continue to rise at a rate we haven't seen in many years. If your pledge has remained steady for some time, please consider increasing it in the coming year.

If you have any questions, would like to discuss your pledge, or learn more about the many ways you can give to St. John's, please contact us or the church office.

Thank you! We do not cease to give thanks for you as we remember you in our prayers (Ephesians 1:16). Thank you for being part of St. John's, this historic and much beloved part of God's vineyard — for tending it, nurturing it, and helping it flourish. Join us in **Growing the Kingdom**!

Sincerely,

The Rev. Kevin Laskowski
Rector

Lisa Heller
Senior Warden