

Dear Members of the St. Anne's Family,

Fall is a time of harvest and thanksgiving - a time of gratitude for all the gifts God gives to us. At St. Anne's as in many other parishes it is also a time for us to give back, which we do, in large part, through our annual Stewardship offerings. We prayerfully ask that you demonstrate the value you see in St. Anne's by supporting the Lord's work in our church with a financial commitment in the form of a pledge. We have much to be thankful for at St. Anne's, but we still have much to do.

We recently completed our three-year Strategic Plan and this year's Stewardship theme, "***Turning Our Vision into Reality in 2008***," is designed to garner the support we need to carry out our Plan Goals. The two underlying principles for our Strategic Plan are:

1. To enhance our spiritual grounding – individually and as a community
2. To improve the lives of others in Reston, our country and the world by practice and example, supported by the spiritual grounding that we find in our St. Anne's community

Why pledge? *St. Anne's depends on pledge income to operate and to grow.* Do you know that only 55% of all registered families pledged in 2007, a drop of 5% from 2006? Making a pledge during the Stewardship Campaign is critical because our church's budget is based on the amount of pledges we receive. We want your support and need your help to move from a maintenance budget in 2007 to a growth budget in 2008. While a maintenance budget allows us to keep the lights on at St. Anne's, a growth budget will enable us to make a real difference in our local, national and international communities, fulfilling a principle of our Strategic Plan.

Our goal for the 2008 Stewardship Campaign calls for a 25% increase in pledge income. This increase will allow us to go beyond our current level of worship, Christian education, fellowship and the day-to-day operation of St. Anne's facilities and will allow us to make exciting leaps forward in our mission. We will announce these additional objectives in the coming weeks and hope you will be as excited about them as we are.

**We want to thank you for your past financial support of St. Anne's!** Your continued support is critical. *We ask that you consider an increase in your annual pledge by 25% or \$500 per year, whichever is greater.* The Vestry has set a goal to increase the number of pledgers from 308 to 418, and to achieve \$1,000,000 in income. It is only with your help and pledge that we can reach these goals.

*Please return your pledge card on or before December 3<sup>rd</sup>. You can drop them in the offertory plate or mail them to the parish office in the envelope provided.*

We invite you to prayerfully consider your gifts to St. Anne's and I thank you for your support of God's work in our parish and beyond. As Paul told the Corinthians, "*The one who provides the seed for the sower and bread for food will provide you with all the seed you want and make the harvest of your deeds a larger one*" (2 Co.,9:10)

St. Anne's Stewardship Committee

Charlie Sowell (Chair), Greg Ciambuschini, Angie Gray, Margret Hjalmarson, Jim Papile, Larry Pettinger, Bob Van Hoecke and Andrew Woelflein