

- ✓ Hello, I'm Susie Backstrom. I'm a member of the Stewardship Committee at St. John's and I've been a member of St. John's congregation since 2001.

- ✓ Over the past several weeks, other members of St. John's have presented short videos about stewardship on a link in The Fledgling. In those videos, they have expressed St. John's gratitude for your pledge payments and your other gifts of time and talent to St. John's. I join with them, and our with our Rector, Mother Megan Castellan, in thanking you so very much for your ongoing support of St. John's during a very challenging time for the country, and, I'm sure, for you and your loved ones. Thank all of you who have stepped up and found a way to get your pledge payments to St. John's.

- ✓ Today, I'd like to show you what part your pledge payments play in St. John's annual income.

- ✓ For 2020, St. John's projected income (pre-pandemic) was \$274,000. This amount has been calculated very carefully by St. John's Treasurer, the Finance Committee and your Vestry based on past years' income sources.

- ✓ So what part of St. John's annual budget depends on income from your collective pledge payments, plate offerings and holiday offerings? The answer to that is approximately \$168,000. That is 61 % of St. John's potential income for this year.

- ✓ You may ask: Does St. John's really need your pledge payment? Doesn't St. John's receive income from other sources such as its endowments?

- ✓ The answer to each of these 2 questions is: Yes.
 - St. John's very much depends on your pledge payments and offerings. Since your monetary gifts make up approximately 61% of all income received by St. John's each year, our church couldn't begin to pay its bills without your faithful support.
 - For 2020, St. John's will receive approximately \$83,000 in interest income from its endowment accounts that the church will be able to spend for its programs and some of its ministries. That is a lot of money but, together with hoped-for pledge payments, plate offerings and holiday offerings of \$168,000 and miscellaneous other income of approximately \$23,000, St. John's total expected income only will be about \$274,000.
 - St. John's has very conservatively budgeted its 2020 total expenses at \$334,000. So, you can see that our church will have a deficit of about \$60,000 for 2020. That amount of a deficit is unsustainable for our parish but St. John's hopes to shrink the deficit throughout this year by encouraging increased giving from its members.
 - But it also means that making your pledge payments and offerings to St. John's is so critical. Your financial gifts are the primary support for everything that happens at the church: paying the salaries and benefits of our church

staff, maintaining and repairing St. John's buildings, property, the pipe organ and parking lot, keeping the lights and heat on and the water running. Your financial support also is used to pay the expenses of the church office, for worship costs, for pastoral care, for Christian education programs and for everything else.

- ✓ Now, more than ever, it is important for you to continue to make your pledge payments and to support St. John's.
- ✓ And, if you've missed making a few payments earlier in the year or at the beginning of this pandemic when St. John's began worshipping virtually, go ahead and write a check to St. John's Church for those missing payments, and mail it to St. John's at 210 North Cayuga Street in Ithaca.
- ✓ An easy way to keep current on your pledge payments during this critical time is to mail them in or to have them automatically sent in via the Tithe.ly software app that Jerome Fung described in an earlier video. I recommend you revisit Jerome's video to see how to do that. You will be able to find the link to it by clicking on the red "Donate" tab which is located in the upper right hand portion of St. John's website cover page.
- ✓ I want to reiterate what Mike Roman said in last week's video, because it bears repeating: Your support is greatly appreciated, it is truly encouraging, it is never taken for granted and it will help St. John's fulfill its mission in Ithaca and the greater world.
- ✓ Thank you for your time.