



THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN ON THE MOUNTAIN

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Beloved in Christ,

“Love from the center of who you are,” St. Paul wrote to the Church in Rome. “Here is what I want you to do,” he wrote, “take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for God.” (*Romans 12, Eugene Peterson translation*) Generosity, for our ancestor Paul, was nothing less than a manifestation of love, a love that emerges from the center of who we are.

As we begin another year of our common life together at St. John on the Mountain, we do so with reverent awe of the fullness of what God has done among us, and what God continues to do in our midst. So much of the past twelve months have been remarkable. In the past year we celebrated our holy seasons with renewed passion, assisted by our Theologian-in-Residence, Father Patrick Malloy. In the season of Lent we studied and learned together, and we celebrated the Paschal Triduum and Easter with a depth that revealed our deep trust for one another, our bonds of love and affection, and our shared devotion to prayer and worship. We received many new people into our community, who brought with them new gifts and unique manifestations of God’s presence that we would not have otherwise known. Our partnership with the Nursery School has invigorated us, as only a collection of four-year-old children can do. We welcomed Rick Morgan, our new organist, whose gifts as a teacher and musician bring glorious noise to our worship on a weekly basis. Every week we encounter the Risen Jesus in our life of shared worship, fellowship, learning, and serving. The God we have come to know in Jesus loves us from the center of who he is, surrounding us with grace.

Our fiscal life has been every bit as grace-filled. We are projecting a balanced budget this year, and have carefully and prayerfully managed the resources given into our care. We were proud to be able to increase our commitment to outreach and our Diocesan community in 2012, and were blessed to be able to share with God’s people in other places.

We are excited about the energy and growth of the parish, and humbled by the generosity of our community. Your Rector, Wardens, and Vestry members are often moved to tears by the faithful witness of the members of this community, who show us examples of loving from the center of who they are, giving of their resources, and being extravagant with their time and many talents.

As we plan for the coming year, the words of Paul to the early church resonate with us. “Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for God.” God has gifted us in countless ways, and the best thing we can do in response, is embrace what God has done and is continuing to do. God has given us each other, and has made us into a community who prays well together, enjoys learning new things together, and feels called into a life of service together. By embracing what God does for us in the coming year, we will strengthen our

existing programs of Worship, Music, Adult Christian Formation, and Sunday School, areas in our common life where God has been particularly active and transformative. We will also increase our commitment to our Diocesan community. The Rector, Wardens, and Vestry are committed to expanding our understanding of Mission Outreach, and in recent weeks have spent time in intentional prayer and study, pondering with wonder where God might be calling our community to a deeper participation in Christ's ongoing mission in the world.

"Love from the center of who you are," St. Paul wrote. This is an invitation to nothing less than an enthusiastic embrace of God's unfathomable love for us. The God who loves us from the center of his own being, calls us to love deeply, and to share what we have, motivated by love and gratitude. Being loved by God gives us a life of freedom and boldness, a life in which we can dare to imagine new possibilities for ministry, and where we more fully become the people God made in the waters of Baptism. We, the leadership team of Every Member Canvass this year, invite you to join us as we embrace what God does for us; taking our everyday, ordinary lives—our sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and surely our money as well, and placing it before God as an offering, loving God and loving Christ's Church here on the Mountain from the center of who we are.

Yours in Christ,



The Reverend Susan Ironside
Rector



Bob Courtemanche
Senior Warden



Chip Baird
Every Member Canvass Chair

2013 Every Member Canvass – Financial Snapshot

This year’s Every Member Canvass (EMC) begins from a position of comparative strength and stability. In 2012, we reversed a five-year trend of annual declines in the total number of pledging members and the total dollar amount raised in each EMC campaign.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total EMC Pledges	\$407,019	\$393,952	\$373,691	\$351,222	\$343,509	\$355,622
Pledging Members	159	142	125	118	115	115

The five-year decline was due to a confluence of factors, including a severe economic downturn, the changing demographics of our congregation, and the Rector transition process.

Fortunately, we find ourselves in a much better position today. We are coming off our first full year under our new rector, Mo. Susan Ironside’s leadership during which time we have welcomed many new members to our community. Based on the success of last year’s EMC, we were able to begin the restoration of “discretionary” budget items like the Diocesan pledge, mission outreach, buildings and grounds, and capital expenses to more appropriate levels. However, in each of these areas there is more that could be done.

The table on the reverse side summarizes where we are tracking for 2012 year-end results based upon our actual results through September 2012. This forecast shows that we are essentially breaking even for 2012. For our first cut 2013 forecast, we have made the following assumptions:

- A 5.0% increase in pledge income
- A 3.0% increase in personnel to support a merit increase for the staff. The last salary increase was paid in 2008.
- A \$10,000 increase in Mission outreach/Diocesan pledge/other. “Other” could include a variety of enrichment for the congregation (Adult Christian Formation, Music, etc.).

	2012 Forecast	2013 Forecast
Income		
Pledge Income	\$355,622	\$373,403
Other Income	\$101,210	\$101,210
Total Income	\$456,832	\$474,613
Expenses		
Personnel	\$216,129	\$222,613
Programs	\$29,032	\$29,032
Operations	\$114,713	\$114,713
Outreach/Diocese/Other	\$44,000	\$54,000
Capital Expense	\$18,647	\$18,647
Debt Service	\$35,774	\$35,774
Total Expenses	\$458,295	\$474,779
Net Income	(\$1,463)	(\$166)

Our goal for this year's EMC campaign is a 5% overall increase in pledge income. This level of pledge income will enable us to collectively build on the momentum that we have created as a congregation and invest in our shared lives for the long-term.

As you contemplate your own pledge, the following stats from last year's campaign are useful to consider:

Category	Count
Increased from prior year	34
Flat from prior year	49
Down from prior year	17
Returning member	10
New member	4
Total	115

In addition to our goal of a 5% overall increase to \$373,000, our goal is to improve the demographics in the table above. Specifically, we hope to see as many pledges increase as possible, so together we sustain this church and this community for generations to come. Whatever your pledge, know that your fellow parishioners appreciate your support at any level.

We hope you will prayerfully consider our request, and have enclosed a pledge card for your convenience. Filling out the card with your pledge and returning it to the church office will enable us to better plan for next year.