

Saint James Episcopal Church
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September 15, 2009

Dear fellow parishioners,

I hope this letter finds you all doing well and you had a great summer. Here at Saint James we have had some new things happening. Vic Hailey is our new curate and the 9:00 am service has been replaced with an hour for confirmation classes, speakers on various topics and lots of items that used to be done after the 10:15 am service.

I want to introduce you to another change that we hope will be well received and help make the budgeting process easier. This is a change in the way we gather pledge cards for the 2010 budget year. As we all know, the topic of stewardship has been one that has been discussed more this year than in year's past. The subject of finances is sometimes an uncomfortable one for many people and the last thing we want to happen is having people feel uneasy about their commitment to pledge. It is a very personal choice. At the same time, we need to know what the budget is at Saint James Church and how much we can expect in income to make prudent spending decisions. Luke 14:28-30 says "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he may have enough to finish it; lest perhaps, after he has laid the foundation and is not able to finish, all those seeing begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish." Just as with our household budgets, the church needs to have an idea of our expected income.

So first; I, the clergy and the vestry want to thank you again for your 2009 pledges. Stewardship at Saint James is a wonderful celebration and we are truly blessed to have the means to do so many wonderful things in our church and the community. In the coming weeks we will be sending out to all of you pledge cards for 2010, just as we have in the past. *The change is how we collect them.* **Sunday, October 25th, is Stewardship Celebration Sunday.** We are asking all of you to bring your filled out pledge cards to your service that Sunday and Charlie+, Loree+ and Vic will ask us as a group to come up and place the cards in a box. This will be in addition to the normal Eucharist. For those who may have forgotten your card, we will have extra cards you may get as you enter church. We will have a special coffee hour after each service with hot fudge sundaes as an extra treat. I know sundaes at 9:00am may not sound great to all of us, but I know a few folks that can handle it, if their arms are twisted.

Stewardship Celebration Sunday will accomplish a few things. First, get the pledge cards returned in a timely fashion so we can better plan for next 2010. 2nd, allow the clergy to thank you immediately for your commitment and 3rd, allow us all to feel the fellowship with our church family as we work to keep the work of God growing here at St. James.

There will be many reminders of Stewardship Celebration Sunday in the weeks to come and we hope this can start another new tradition at St. James.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erik Moran". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Erik Moran
Stewardship Chairperson