



21 September 2009

Dear Friends,

Christ Church, St. Michael's Parish, is a giving community. In the past year, despite difficult economic times, we have seen the generosity of the parish on many occasions - in the Back to School Program, the Community Youth Initiative, the El Hogar dental program, and the St. Michaels Food Bank, to name just a few. The enclosed brochure, *Christ Church - A Giving Community*, illustrates how generous a community we are and highlights the various ways in which we give back to our community.

The Vestry recognizes that this generosity is in spite of the economic situation facing many parishioners, not because they have escaped difficult times. It has accordingly taken every opportunity to restrain growth in expenditures for the 2010 budget year. The enclosed brochure illustrates only modest increases in expenses associated with the operation of our buildings and increases in the compensation package for our clergy and staff. Plans for a Children and Youth Coordinator have been reevaluated. Instead of a full time position, the Vestry is now considering a quarter time position for this important area. Other programs have either been kept at current levels or restricted to minor increases, and in some cases cut altogether. The brochure provides an overview of how important your pledge is to our Church and an illustration of where the money goes.

As a parish, we are committed to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ in ways that touch the lives of others. Here is a tangible and material way to do just that in our own community, while deepening our own personal spiritual growth. We ask that you give prayerful consideration as to what you can give Christ Church the coming year.

Our goal for the 2010 stewardship campaign is \$510,000. This is slightly above our goal for last year, and we hope that you will work with us to achieve this goal. Please use the enclosed pledge card and be as generous as you are able. Stewardship Sunday Ingathering is October 18th and we ask, if possible, for you to turn in your pledge card on that Sunday. It is important that we receive the pledge cards as early as possible to help us plan for the coming year. Thank you for your generosity.

Yours in Christ,

Carl Widell, *Stewardship Committee Chair*

Chris Whyman
Senior Warden

Alison Sanford
Junior Warden

Bob Burger
Finance Chair

Chloe Pitard
Parishioner

Phil Parkinson
Parishioner