



October 21, 2021

Dear People of St. George's,

When I ponder our mission at St. George's- **to be an instrument of God's unconditional love**- I think of people and their stories, those whose lives are forever changed by the mission, ministry, and presence of our parish. When they meet our community, looking for a place to rest, to celebrate, to learn, to grieve, to heal, to be loved, they find exactly that- a community embodying God's unconditional love! Below are just a handful of the hundreds of stories that reveal the deep transformation St. George's is in our community. These stories tell our communal story, how our ministry together impacts real lives, real people, real families, real communities, bringing people to Christ's loving presence and celebrating with them as that love transforms their reality!

A family, grieving the death of their unborn child, finding God's love, comfort, and support through the St. George's community...

An individual, carrying questions of faith, doubt, and self, discovering God's support in their wrestling and knowing the safety to ask those questions within the St. George's community...

9 children committed through baptism, with 5 more baptisms scheduled, to walk in the loving way of Jesus, to be transformed through the love of Jesus and to transform the world through that same love...

500+ miles away, a person grieving the death of their adult child, gaining a deep peace and experiencing God's love through praying alongside our online Compline services...

The dozens of families, struggling financially, who experience God's love and support through the food on their tables, the diapers for their children, and formula for their newborns, given by the community at St. George's...

The 20 individuals and their families who, through our Sacred Ground program, are growing in their awareness of systemic racism and are challenged to change their lives in response to this growing awareness of injustice...

I give thanks to God every day for this glorious community of believers, for you, who offer generously of yourself- **your financial support and pledge, your time, your skills and gifts** - all so that others may experience the joy of Jesus in their lives and be given new life. Without each and every single one of you, our loving impact--God's loving impact--in our community wouldn't happen. Thank you for the integral part you played this past year as a

member of St. George's, so that we could be an instrument of God's unconditional love in the world to the people these stories represent!

As we look ahead to 2022, a new year of ministry together, I ask you to prayerfully consider how you will contribute to and become a part of this life-changing ministry! How will you help us to love this hurting world?

- How will you financially give to sustain the mission and ministry of St. George's in this year and for generations to come?
- How will you offer your gifts and skills to contribute to our worship, to our fellowship, and to service in our community?
- How will you offer your time and presence as we further explore how God's love can transform and heal this world?

Included in this mailing you will find a financial graph that shows just how integral your pledge of support is to our mission. You will also find a graph that can assist you in discerning how much you could give based on your income, as well as a pledge card you may use to submit your pledge for our 2022 year of ministry.

You may also submit your pledge card online by going to <https://stgeorges-maplewood.org/min-stewardship/>. *Note- if you are a regular/automatic giver through Vanco, please turn in a pledge card as well, so we can plan next year's budget accordingly.* On Sunday, November 14th, we will celebrate Gratitude Sunday, a time to give thanks for the pledges and gifts offered to God and to the mission of St. George's.

Won't you join me in supporting this worthy mission to be an instrument of God's unconditional love in the world? St. George's cannot do it without you!

Peace,

Rev. Grant Mansfield