



### Can you help?

- If you have not already made a pledge to the GIFT campaign, please consider doing so now. Envelopes and pledge cards, as well as material about the campaign, are available at the back of the church.
- If you made a one-time pledge last year, please consider renewing your support this year, or even better, for the remaining four years of the campaign.
- If you are new to the parish, we can arrange a conversation about GIFT at a time and place convenient to you. Please let any member of the GIFT Continuation Committee know about your interest.

#### **The St. John's GIFT Continuation Committee**

Beth Bretzlaff, Brian Cameron (Chair), Barbara Dransch, Jane Maxwell, Gay Richardson, Reed Smith

### October 2013 Update

One year ago, St. John's launched its GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) campaign. The goal was to raise \$400,000 to support a variety of important initiatives here in our parish and in the wider Diocese. All money raised will be divided equally between the parish and the Diocese.

You, our fellow parishioners, responded generously, both with your time and your pledges, and for this we thank you. Our 30 Ambassadors visited over 165 people as part of the campaign, initiating new relationships and strengthening existing ones. All agreed that the visits were an important and fulfilling ministry in themselves, and should be repeated in the future to continue building up our community.

The financial response to the campaign was also gratifying. To date, we have raised \$331,400, or 83% of our goal. This is a five-year campaign, and we will continue working to reach our target, so that we can implement all of the parish initiatives we described in our GIFT Case for Support, as well as the many worthy Diocesan projects.

### **What's happening at St. John's?**

In consultation with Parish Council, our new Rector, Beth Bretzlaff, has already made use of GIFT funds allocated for Special Opportunities to commission a feasibility study of a new Family Ministry here at St. John's.

If the results of this study show that such a Ministry would fulfill a real need in our community, we would then be able to use our GIFT Leadership Funding to implement the Ministry.

Beth is also very interested in making St. John's entrance more welcoming—one of the priorities identified by our Moving Forward process. Improvements might include new signage, less forbidding doors, and an attractive and useful narthex. Discussions are at an early stage, but our GIFT Welcoming Space funds will be available to help make whatever is chosen a reality.

Many other projects will be made possible by St. John's GIFT funds allocated for Spiritual Life, Outreach and Social Justice and Essential Capital Projects. St. John's can also apply for Diocesan GIFT funds for additional projects. We will keep you informed about these possibilities with regular updates.

### **What's happening elsewhere in the Diocese?**

The Diocesan fundraising goal of \$12 million has already been reached, and the total is still climbing!

Some recent recipients of GIFT grants include:

- St. Luke's Table, a community ministry that offers meals and support services for those in need
- St. Alban's, to hire a Pastoral Assistant who will build a ministry to the homeless at Centre 454.
- The Winter Warming Centre in Smiths Falls, which provides a warm, safe place to sleep for people on the streets
- Conversations with Silence, a retreat for children and youth
- PWRDF, to help people with AIDS in Mozambique

There are many other exciting ministries that will soon be launched or assisted with Diocesan GIFT grants. We will keep you informed about these as well.