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Friday, October 21, 2016

Dear Friends at St. Lukes,

We have often heard of the Christian Life expressed as a "journey," and that is as true for our collective life as a parish as it is for our own lives as individuals. The theme of this year's Stewardship Campaign, "Walking the Path Together," reminds us that all our individual gifts, no matter how large or small, no matter how grand or humble, advance the spiritual journey of the one Christian body that we know as St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Indeed, St. Luke's journey has been a long one beginning in 1954 when seventeen determined people pooled their money and their talents to form a mission that held its first church service in the American Legion Hall in downtown North Little Rock. The vision of those seventeen charter members carried over into the following generations of men, women and children who pooled their own resources to transform St. Luke's into a parish and to build the facilities that we use today. Through these changes St. Luke's, at its core, remains the Christian body that first worshipped in that American Legion Hall and it continues to thrive on the foundation of our clergy and all the parishioners who, among many other things, sang in our choir, taught in our Sunday school, made the needlepoint that we see in our Sanctuary, and, at one time, even baked our communion bread.

St. Luke's now finds itself at the beginning of a new chapter in its journey as we say fond farewells to our beloved deacon, Dr. Joanna Seibert, and Jason Pennington, our organist and choirmaster. It is time not only to reflect on the contributions that Dr. Seibert and Jason made to the life of our parish, but also to walk this new path together and meet any challenges that lie ahead. It is a time to step forward, as we always have, with our time, our talent, and the fruits of our labor to fulfill our mission of Stewardship that those seventeen charter members began so many years ago.

At the bottom of this letter is an annual pledge card and M.A.P. pledge card. The annual pledge card will give you an opportunity to declare how you may support the church financially in the next year, and the other is asking you to help with the Mortgage Assistance Program (M.A.P). This program was established to help pay the monthly mortgage payments on the note held on church property. All funds received through M.A.P. go toward the principal on the note. We hope everyone will prayerfully consider how they can participate in helping St. Luke's meet its financial needs, continue the great programs and ministries that we have, and meet new challenges in this chapter of St. Luke's long journey.

Stewardship Sunday is November 20th. We ask that all M.A.P. and tithing pledge cards be turned in by that Sunday. We will also be sending a digital form of these cards via e-mail for your convenience. You may mail the cards to the church office, drop them in the collection plate, or you can simply reply to the e-mails that are sent out.

Sincerely,
The Stewardship Committee