



October 24, 2023

Dear Friends,

My second year of Vestry service is nearing its conclusion. It remains a privilege to continue serving this community and once again address you through this letter.

Twice now, I've had the opportunity to serve as a volunteer docent at our art exhibits. If you have not visited St. John's outside of a church service to view the art or served as a volunteer docent, I encourage you to do so. It is a beautiful experience. For me, there was something incredibly serene about sitting in the church, surrounded by stillness and art, as I watched the afternoon light come through the windows. It was the perfect moment to reflect on how far we have come since last fall.

In my previous letter, I wrote about the change on the horizon, and how I was filled with hope and excitement about what it may hold. Others shared that same hope and excitement. As we closed out 2022 and moved into 2023, the Vestry began to explore initiatives that surfaced during the sabbatical process, and we tackled them with a renewed sense of purpose and energy.

Over the past year, we have seen fantastic growth within the parish. We've welcomed many new faces to our church through our various services and focused ministries, and we have made strides towards deepening our parish's connection to the broader community around us. We could not have accomplished any of these things without your support of St. John's through the offering of your willing and hopeful spirit, your time, and through your financial commitment.

Building on the theme of 2 Corinthians 9:6 from my stewardship video, it is fair to say that over the past year, St. John's in the Mountains has sowed bountifully. While we are now beginning to reap bountifully, we know there is still work to be done. As the Vestry begins to plan our budget and priorities for 2024, we look to the parish for your continued support.

On behalf of the Vestry, I invite you to join us in making a financial commitment to the future of St. John's. We will have an in-gathering and blessing of the pledge cards on November 12th. If you cannot join us in person, you may mail your pledge card to:

St. John's in the Mountains  
PO Box 1175  
Stowe, VT 05672

With gratitude for the blessing of  
being part of this community,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary T. Stiles-Hendler".

Mary T. Stiles-Hendler  
Co-Warden, St. John's in the Mountains

St. John's in the Mountains Episcopal Church

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