

September 2022

Dear Friends and Families of St. Matthew,

As we begin our annual Canvass Pledge Drive to gather Pledges to fulfill our Operating expenses and obligations for the coming year, we would like to share a few highlights from our past year together.

St. Matthew resumed the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in March, which included options for people to participate fully masked and not masked. The beginning of a living Strategic Plan, which is a community-building task for the roadmap for St. Matthew, is in its initial steps of a 5-year process. Our Beloved Community Team developed and hosted a very well received book study of *The Church Cracked Open*. We provided mentoring for Fr. Hilary Njoroge as part of his goal to be received as a priest in The Episcopal Church from his original province of Kenya. We hired and welcomed our new pianist, Liz Gregg, in August. We successfully applied for and were awarded a new Congregational Development Grant for 2023 (thanks Kathy Stewart!). And we managed to provide for a full-time Rector position for more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year without dipping into our Line of Credit.

St. Matthew has proven that by trusting God's guidance and living into the Holy Spirit, miracles do happen. As we prepare for 2023, please consider making a pledge. Also, please know, members of the Vestry and the Canvass Team are always available for questions and comments. We look forward to receiving your 2023 Pledge Card (either with the physical card enclosed or electronically) in time to have it blessed on Sunday, November 6th as we reach our goal of \$220,000 pledged in 2023.

In Christ,

The Canvass Team:

Nan Martin Clapp
Terry Elofson
Sueann Goretti
Rich Gould
Scott Hance
Tom Peterson