

## **Building Our Future! Update Corner**

### **How Much Are We Asked to Give?**

Dear Friends,

Our Building for the Future Campaign is humming right along and building up speed. We are a 150 year old community and we want to be around for another 100 years. Central to “being around” and thriving are our beautiful church and a Parish Hall. The Parish Hall is where we gather as a community and where we launch our many ministries.

It is commonly asked, “How much should we give?”

First, a little background, we have hired a VisionWorks consultant, Mark Filips, to partner with us in this huge undertaking. Mark tells us that the way we are running our process is the way churches and organizations have done it for 250 years in the United States; it’s the way our great-grandparents did it in order to build our church, and it is the way it is done whenever you undertake any large project.

To build our new Parish Hall, pay for it completely, and replenish our church bank account will take something like \$950,000. That means that as a parish we need to aim as high as possible. Some parishioners were approached early to get the process started, everyone was invited to our Advanced Commitment Gatherings, and then all parishioners who have not yet pledged will have pledge packets mailed to their homes.

Mark goes through a process of looking at our plans, looking at our financial goals, looking at each parishioner’s possible support for the project, and asking all of us to “prayerfully consider” a gift or pledge that would be a reach, a stretch, a sacrifice for us. No one is ever told how much to give. No one can make that decision for another. But, we are asked to “prayerfully consider” and stretch, just as our great-grandparents did in their time, if we hope to come close to our goal.

Mark tells us that some of the parishioners who were asked for early gifts will go higher than asked, some will give what was asked and some will go lower than asked. This is all perfectly alright.

The important thing for all of us will be to look at the goal of our new Parish Hall, think about the kinds of sacrifices our great-grandparents made in their time, take some time in serious prayer and deliberation, and “prayerfully consider” a gift that is a reach for us.

We hope that all of us will be pleased and happy with the results!

*Building Our Future* Steering Committee

**January** is the Reflection phase of the campaign. The Reflection Phase asks YOU, the parishioners of St. Andrew, to reflect on God’s goodness and consider giving back generously. We cannot all give the same amount, but each of us, and all of us, can have an important part.