

Fellow Parishioners,

God has been very clear in His call for us to do great things here in Aiken and in the wider world. Your commitment to regular worship, prayer, and ministry are the most important component of stewardship at St Thaddeus. We believe 2016 will see even greater things happen at St Thaddeus. God's spirit is indeed moving among us.

We have done our best over the years to make good decisions and work within our budget. As you all know, certain costs, like utilities, increase every year. We have planned a budget this year that anticipates the increases we expect in 2016. We want to continue to support our fine staff; Linda, Denise and Ricky are an incredible gift to our parish and their service is an important part of our success. Also, our worship and ministry would not be the same without Father Joseph, Hughes, and Don.

This year's operating budget expects \$680,000 in contributions (about \$13,000 per week). While this will maintain our current ministries, personnel, and operational costs, it does not provide for major capital expenses (new HVAC or roof) nor will it allow us to grow our ministries in response to God's call. These areas of growth include fully supporting our diocesan commitment, so we may develop a curacy program, expanding and growing our Christian formation and youth programs, and increasing our outreach in Aiken, perhaps developing a Canterbury ministry to USCA. To grow our budget to meet these needs, we ask our parishioners to increase their pledge by a small amount, such as 1% over last year.

We are blessed with an incredible parish where stewardship is an everyday experience. We give of our time, talent, and treasure regularly. In fact, we are able to give to many outreach programs that are not included in the operating budget because of the generous giving of our parish.

Pledging is a form of worship, promising to give for God some of the gifts of God has given you. We ask you to make a specific pledge for the coming year, in terms of both financial support for our parish and support of its ministries.

Pray for God's guidance. What talents would you like to share? Do you have time to help in the daily work of the church or in one of the many ministries on Sunday morning? Are you able to increase your pledge, perhaps even take a tangible step toward tithing?

Thank you for your support and ministry at St Thaddeus,



The Rev. Grant Wiseman,
Rector



Tad Whiteside,
Senior Warden

Ed Schneider,
Junior Warden