

## **Budgeting from Abundance**

### **Statement for the Vestry on Using a “Faith Fund” to Balance the Budget**

January 4, 2023

The annual budget is an important process for the church. However, removing many needed services and ministries, such as outreach grants, support for our burgeoning children’s ministry, and the Media Technician position, would be detrimental to the functioning and growth of the parish. It is our service and our outreach that define us as a caring, nurturing congregation. Therefore, every effort should be made to ensure that all ministries are supported, and that needed funds are there.

In that regard, we believe a “Faith Fund” line item in the budget should be established as a placeholder for additional revenue that we trust will come in during the year. Our stewardship committee chair, Tom Butler, has experienced the viability of a Faith Fund as a member of the vestry at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Simi Valley, CA, where a “Faith Fund” was utilized in their budgeting process. St. John’s should not lower the quality of care that the parish offers the community from a lack of faith in our parishioner’s ability or willingness to meet the financial needs of our ministries.

Other funding, such as increased or new fundraisers, additional pledges received or other sources are possible and can never be completely predicted in advance. Over the past five years, the available revenue has been sufficient to make St. John’s viable each year. We are asking the vestry to trust that God will provide the necessary funds to balance the budget, as God has provided consistently in previous years. We are asking the vestry to choose faith over fear, to budget from a place of abundance and have faith that the funding will come in over the course of the year for the ministries we feel God calling us to do.

We respectfully request that you use a reasonable “Faith Fund” to balance this year’s budget instead of cutting ministries and programs. In the interest of transparency, this could be supported by a monthly statement in the bulletin and the eNews about our current financial position and the status of the Faith Fund.

Sincerely,  
The Stewardship Committee

Tom Butler, Chair  
Annie Henry  
Charles Greenleaf  
Susan von Schmacht  
The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller, Rector