

# CELEBRATING GOD'S STORIES

STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2024



## A PLACE TO TRUST AND SERVE – CHUCK GORGEN, ST. JOHN'S MEMBER

Chuck Gorgen loves sailing. He and wife Claria have always lived by water with easy access to setting sail in their boat. Prior to retiring, Chuck would tow their sailboat from their former home in Minnesota to Florida each year. As he traveled south along the coast, he visited various communities, searching for a place for retirement. In each potential retirement community that he checked out, Chuck would visit the local Lutheran church. On one of those trips, he found a lot with deep water access on Distant Island and knew this was the place for their retirement home. Nine years passed before the lot became available, and each year he visited St. John's as he traveled the coast.

When Chuck retired and he and Claria moved to Beaufort, the Rev. Ed Counts was serving as interim pastor, seeking to bring healing to St. John's following a time of conflict. Chuck sensed this and had a feeling that the congregation was unsettled. He visited other local denominations but continued to return to St. John's. Then one Sunday afternoon, Pastor Ed rang Chuck and Claria's doorbell. Chuck remembers him asking, "Why aren't you joining St. John's? Keep the faith. God will make everything okay." After a great visit that offered Chuck and Claria this reassurance, they decided to become members of St. John's.

Soon after they joined the congregation, Pastor Shannon Mullen accepted a call to be St. John's pastor and Chuck has never regretted the decision. Over time, he became involved with the congregation, serving on the Endowment Fund and Finance teams and regularly putting his engineering skills to work creatively preparing the sanctuary for celebrations and festivals. If something is hanging from the sanctuary ceiling or high on a wall, Chuck probably had something to do with it!

The generosity of St. John's members and friends is what makes it possible to provide ongoing encouragement to trust in God's guidance and a church home in which members' gifts and talents are used to serve others. Thank you for your faithful generosity!

**OUR GOAL** – Our goal this year is simple. We need to increase generosity by \$1,000 or more per week in order to keep St. John's ministries strong so that stories like Chuck's can continue to happen here. Together, we can create a congregation in which the work of God to bring joy and hope to our lives and our community is celebrated!

Together our generosity supports the ministry to which God calls us. This chart provides a picture of our current giving. As you read this gift chart and find the level of your current offerings, we invite you to consider the following questions:

- ➔ “How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?”
- ➔ “How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I have received?”

