Thursday, June 13, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

The vestry, wardens, and Father Jim thank you for the meaningful survey information, telephone calls, messages, and conversations we have shared concerning whether or not to enroll in The Saint John’s Bible [Heritage](https://blog.saintjohnsbible.org/year-saint-johns-bible/) Edition’s [Year with The Saint John’s Bible](https://blog.saintjohnsbible.org/year-saint-johns-bible/) program. The vestry has considered whether or not to invest in this scriptural resource since two vestry members, a warden, and Jim traveled in February to this year’s [Consortium for Endowed Episcopal](https://www.ceepnetwork.org/) Churches’ annual conference. We tabled a motion to move forward with this investment so that we involved the entire congregation in this decision.

This process culminated on The Day of Pentecost (June 9th) with a 9:00 am Christian Life conversation. 10-15 members, including a couple of vestry members and Father Jim talked about the idea. Participants freely expressed their concerns and support for bringing the Gospel/Acts Volume of the Saint John’s Bible to Christ Memorial for one year. Later that day, a quorum of the vestry voted unanimously to allocate funds (approximately $20,000) for the Year with The Saint John’s Bible program. This funding includes program costs plus travel expenses to and from Collegeville, Minnesota for our training.

The vestry clearly intends to develop and approve of a plan for using the Gospel/Acts volume in a wide array of parish programs including worship, Christian Formation, and in/outreach ministries. Additionally, the vestry will invite neighboring Episcopal parishes, other churches, schools, and artistic organizations to join us in designing a program. Our objective is to share the Saint John’s Bible widely throughout the region. We asked Debbie Stayer if she would lead a team to accomplish these goals. She eagerly said yes! She will work with Father Jim and us to form that team. This team will develop a plan and initiate training.

We believe that this investment will accomplish the Holy Spirit’s work to proclaim Christ’s Gospel by illuminating and sparking the spiritual imaginations of people who see, touch, and receive grace from The Saint John’s Bible. Its presence in our midst will further enable our community to enter into a new era of [visibility and vitality](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/87ba73_859095bee5894d2cb0ddb15ec82c3377.pdf) as we branch further out as Jesus Christ’s disciples. Join us in as the Holy Spirit leads you, your family, and our neighbors.

In Christ’s Love,

Your Wardens - Michelle Walczak and David Peterson