

Stewardship Quarterly a newsletter for members of

# St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church

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## "Step into your Faith" and Stewardship



For Episcopalians, Easter is the highlight of our liturgical seasons. It is our time of rebirth. Spring has arrived, flowers are blooming, and we are ready to enjoy warmer days.

It is also the time at St. John's when we begin laying out plans for our upcoming year. We do this with our every member canvas. Yes, the time when we on the Stewardship Committee ask everyone to help support the church financially. We call it "pledging".

This year, we are taking a slightly different approach in this effort. We are adopting a new theme, "Step into Your Faith". We are going to approach stewardship by highlighting our faith. This issue of Stewardship Quarterly is expanded to help do this.

In this issue, we are going to take time to share with you stories about some of the great work that we are doing in our parish and in our community.

We are going to lay out to you some of our financial challenges and the need to increase our revenues to meet projected expenses.

We are going to introduce our Step Into Your Faith campaign and explain it's importance to our parish.

Then we are going to step back and let faith take over. Martin Luther King Jr. said *"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."*

*Step into Your Faith, is a planned giving approach. We are asking you to ask yourself two questions: (1) On what giving step are you currently at? and (2) Will you move up one step next year?*

Imagine the possibilities. St John's in the center of a new and reborn part of downtown York. St. John's providing ministry to new families coming back to the city. St. John's growing in service and in size. We truly are a place where God's work and worship is done!

## Vacation Bible School offers outreach into the community

### Ministries of our Parish:

#### Formation:

- Sunday School
- Sunday Forum
- Vacation Bible School
- Advent Meditations
- Lenten Suppers
- Confirmation Preparation
- Baptism Preparation
- Marriage Preparation
- Parish Retreat
- Reflection Groups

#### Spiritual Growth:

- Mardi Gras celebration
- Sisters in Caring
- Loving Stitches
- Book Club
- Legacy Society
- Eucharistic visitors
- Sunday services

Vacation Bible school is a wonderful opportunity for us to expand our outreach in the community.

The origins of Vacation Bible School can be traced back to Hopedale, Illinois in 1894. Sunday school teacher D. T. Miles, who also was a public school teacher, felt she was limited by time constraints in teaching the Bible to children. So, she started a daily Bible school to teach children during the summer.

Thanks to Holly Kahley and the other volunteers who help make this program a success. Vacation Bible school is a great summer activity for our children. Christian education is at the heart of our strategic vision and this program is one that helps in that effort.



*Vacation Bible School gives children an opportunity to explore Christian education in a fun and engaging way.*

## Godly Play and Christian Formation



*Storytelling is a key component of Godly Play.*

Godly Play draws on the traditions of ancient storytelling. The primary goal is for teachers to model how to use the language of the Christian tradition through presentations of parables, sacred stories, liturgy and silence. The Godly Play classroom provides a space to worship God, not just speak about God.

Children hear the core stories of the Christian tradition several times over the elementary years because as children grow and change so their understanding of these stories changes and deepens.

## Kitchen clean-up requires lots of resources

There is a lot of work required to keep a church maintained. Especially one that is over two hundred fifty years old!

What's true about chores is that they get done a lot quicker and are a lot less intrusive when they are done with lots of resources. It's amazing how much quicker things get done with you have enough hands!

Recently we had a work detail take on the kitchen. With all hands on deck, we were able to get the job done in a fairly short amount of time. Thanks to all that helped get this job done!



*Lots of resources make a tough job a lot less of a chore.*

## St. Zita's Guild - a chance to offer your "talent"

This past June we began the formation of St. Zita's guild. The guild is responsible for making sure that the many chores that are required to maintain our parish are performed. With the reductions in our budget, we have reduced our paid staff, as a result there is a need to get projects done by getting volunteers to offer their talent.

The goal is to get at least one member from each parish household to join the guild. Many of the activities are only done occasionally and require just a little bit of time. Others are a bit more rigorous. The volunteer list will be made available to all the guild members. The categories include Kitchen, Church Office, Outside grounds maintenance, Altar preparation, and custodial duties in the church and parish hall.

We look to emulate St. Zita as we perform the chores once done by paid help at St. John's. In addition to work though we want the guild to provide fellowship and fun as well. For information on joining the guild you can contact the church office.

St. Zita lived in Italy in the 1200's and was Canonized in the 1500's. She is a favorite in England, the birth place of the Anglican Communion. St. Zita cared fully for the home of her lord, while also performing the charitable deeds that led to her sainthood. She even convinced others to join her in unselfish, compassionate good works.



## Food Pantry provides for the hungry



*It's a sad fact that every day people in our community go hungry.*

St. John's Food Pantry provides three days worth of food for families and individuals referred by the York County Clearing House. Any persons in need including the homeless are always welcome. The pantry is made possible by your contributions both in groceries, money, the sale of gift cards and the outreach ministry.

Each week we have eight to ten families on Thursday that come to the church to receive food on a referred basis. This compared to three or four a year ago. The food pantry provides a valuable service in our community, another example of the outreach that our church provides.

The food pantry needs your support to provide the needed supplies. The food pantry is restocked with

gifts of food and money each month. Remember to bring food items or use the envelopes to make a financial contribution each third Sunday of the month.

In addition, you can purchase gift cards for groceries and other retail services. The proceeds from this goes towards purchasing food to stock the shelves. Thanks to all who make a regular contribution to this ministry.

Janifer Nolte and Kendall Menzer coordinate the gift card sales and if you haven't said thanks to them, be sure to do so. As you know, they have endured some pretty tough weather!



## Teen Leaders add to our ministry

In today's world, it's unusual to get to read a story about teenagers that has a positive spin to it. Usually it has a Jersey Shore feel. But at St. John's we have a lot of great stories to tell. Our Teen Leaders is one of these.

The packages for two Christmas families were wrapped with care by Alec Hein, Rebecca Smith-Kingston and Jordann Smith-Kingston. Thanks to these leaders for their contribution to our ministry to others.

Teen Leaders are meeting monthly on the second Sunday from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall. On January 9 they spent time planning for the coming year. On February 6 our Teen Leaders invited us to fill a soup pot with money to feed the hungry among us. Please be prepared to be generous.

Our Teen Leaders are adding to the ministry of St. John's and more importantly giving us a great story to read about.

## Support for Our Daily Bread

Normally, Our Daily Bread serves some 269 people a day. However, in recent months, the average leaped to 350, mainly moms and dads coming in with their children.

Our parish has been a supporter of Our Daily Bread for many years. The soup kitchen opened in 1983. Our volunteers prepare casseroles and then man the serving line.

As an example, our servers for the month of November were: Sue Krebs, Mike Bond, Wanda Linebaugh, Elizabeth and Richard Smith and Eric Smith, Jerri-Lee McCleary and Russ Eckloff. They served 192 persons with 23 casseroles. Thanks to our casserole makers and servers for their dedication in this ministry.

**Ministries of our Parish:**

**Outreach:**

- Food Pantry
- Staying Connected
- Our Daily Bread
- Habitat for Humanity
- St. Nicholas Pouches
- Episcopal Relief & Development
- Operation Understanding
- United Thank Offering
- Bonham Fund
- Discretionary Fund
- Freezer Sale
- Spiritual Growth:**
- Foyers
- Connections
- St. Francis Blessing of the animals
- Evensong

## Maintaining a historic keepsake

From 1755 to today, St. John's has provided a place of worship for many Episcopalians in York county. 255 years of history, and 255 years of up keep.

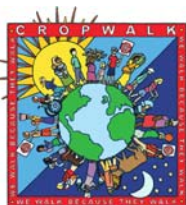
Like any historic site, the care of this treasured building falls to the current generation. Our stewardship goes beyond our ministry. We truly are stewards of history for future generations. Leaving our church in the condition we received it is one of callings that we've been given.

There is a lot to be grateful for at St. John's, and one of those is the sheer beauty of our house of worship.



Maintaining the historic building and grounds requires a significant amount of effort and financial resources.

## 41st annual Crop Walk a success



The money raised by the CROP Hunger Walk goes to feed the hungry in the York Community and around the world. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised remains in York and is provided in grants

to church food pantries and organizations that provide food for needy people. The remainder is used by Church World Service (CWS) to provide food and clean water to people around the world.

The 41st annual York CROP Hunger Walk began at Sovereign Bank Stadium at 1:30 on Sunday, October 10th. The 10K walk goes from the stadium to the Rail Trail and then to the entrance to Regent's Glen and return.



Registration at this year's Crop Walk at Sovereign Bank Stadium

## Elizabeth Bonham Mission Fund extends our impact globally.

The Elizabeth Bonham Mission Fund is one of the ways that St. John's is able to do mission work around the world.

This money is a trust held by York Bank on behalf of the Historical Society of York County, the Conservation Society of York County, and the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church.

The income from the money held in trust is to be used for "the advancement of the Mission work of the Protestant Episcopal Church at large."

The Trustees of the Elizabeth S. Bonham Mission Fund meet twice a year, in early November and early May, to review grant requests received during the previous six months.

**Elizabeth Bonham Mission Fund**

Recent Grants Approved

**\$5,000** -Virginia Theological Seminary—to rebuild chapel destroyed by fire.

**\$2,500**—St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya for needy students.

**\$2,500**—St. Andrew's Parish in Montevallo, AL for "Shirt off my back endeavor"

**\$2,000**— Katnunda Anglican Nursery School in Kasulu, Tanzania.

## United Thank Offering provides solutions everyday

The United Thank Offering is a program of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole Church, founded by and administered by women since 1889.

The United Thank Offering Committee is a spiritual and financial partner in the mission work of The Episcopal Church, through every person in every pew. UTO is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the United Thank Offering monies through grants.

The Committee awards and administers these grants within the framework of the policies and procedures of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) of The Episcopal church.

Kathy Mosso is our UT chairperson. Here at St. John we have been honoring this time of year with our gifts to the United Thank Offering. The Sunday before the national Thanksgiving seems to be an especially appropriate time to do this.



## Music an important ministry



Anglicans have a rather "catholic" view of music in church. Music is a form of sung prayer and not just "inspirational entertainment". Music and song are an essential part of the liturgy.

Various parts of the service are sung to provide transitions as we move through the drama of the liturgical act.

We are blessed at St. John to have three exceptional choirs and the excellent leadership of Rodney Barnett, organist and choir director. Rodney has brought renewed energy and knowledge to an outstanding music ministry.

*Rodney's leadership has a wide range. From the children's choir to the Ecumenical Society.*



## Meals on Wheels

Each Monday, volunteers from St. John's pick up and deliver meals to homebound persons who participate in this program. Typically, meals are taken to four to six homes each week. Volunteers are always welcome to join in this ministry.



Barry and Jane Peters have taken the lead in this ministry for many years. We are truly blessed to have their dedication and commitment to this effort.

## Rummage Sale helps those in need.

The rummage sale provides a resource for clothing, toys, and miscellaneous items for needy people in the community. The rummage sale is held twice yearly, in the spring and in the fall.

Items not sold are turned over to the York Rescue Mission or other low income service organization for their outreach work. Money raised from the Rummage Sales is used in St. John outreach work. Rich and Sue Lutz deserve our thanks for helping make this effort a success.



## What makes up the church budget?

### Ministries of our Parish:

#### Worship:

- Acolytes
- Altar Guild
- Ushers
- Greeters
- Eucharistic ministers
- Lectors
- Choir
- Bell Choir
- Children's choir

#### Organizational:

- Vestry
- Associate Vestry
- Property Committee
- Finance & Investment Committee
- Stewardship Committee
- Planned Giving Committee
- Communications Committee
- Christian Formation Committee

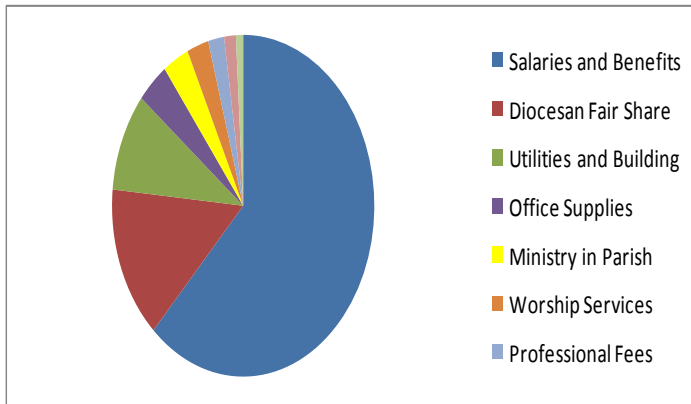
Have you taken a look at our church budget? For those of us who are not accountants, the numbers can be a bit confusing. Let's take a quick look at what makes up the budget.

In total, our budget for 2010 is \$560,000. That is down from \$633,000 in 2009 and \$621,000 in 2008.

Salaries and Benefits make up about 62% of the budget, nearly \$350,000. Part of this goes to support for people that help behind the scenes, our sexton and our financial administrator. It also includes support for our church office and our organist.

The second highest expense item is the money we send to the diocese. As a parish of the Episcopal Church we contribute a Fair Share to support the ministry of our Diocese.

This Fair Share is determined each year at Diocesan Convention based on a parish's net disposable income. Our



Fair Share is \$81,000. Utilities and building costs run about \$45,000.

Office supplies and ministries inside the parish are about \$18,000 each. \$14,000 is budgeted for ministry outside the parish.

The budget at St. John's is based on the vestry's estimate of projected income and programs are then adjusted to fit within this number.

## Why is Pledge income so important?

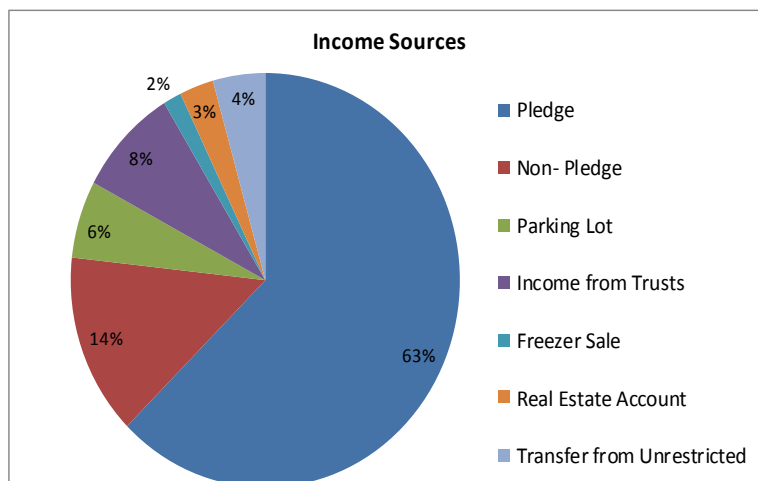
The 2011 budget has over \$529,000 of projected income planned. Of that, \$331,000 is projected to be pledge income. That amounts to 63% of the total. (Nearly two thirds)

Non-pledge income, which is often called the offering plate income is projected to be \$75,000 or 14%.

All of our other income sources combined amount to about 25% of our budget. Additionally with the exception of the freezer sale, they are fixed.

You can see from the chart below what a large part of our income comes from pledges. That's what makes it so important. If pledge income drops, there is very little that can be done to make up the shortfall.

In addition to the size of pledge income, it is also important because it is predictable. Pledge income is backed by a commitment. The offering income is purely discretionary and fluctuates based on attendance and the congregations generosity. We budget an amount, but don't have a high confidence in our ability to receive it.



Increasing pledges gives the finance committee and the vestry a better forecast of future revenues. With this information, we can make decisions on new programs and additional ministries.

Last year the number of pledges went down from 163 in 2009 to 150 in 2010. The pledge amounts went up, but not enough to offset the lower number.

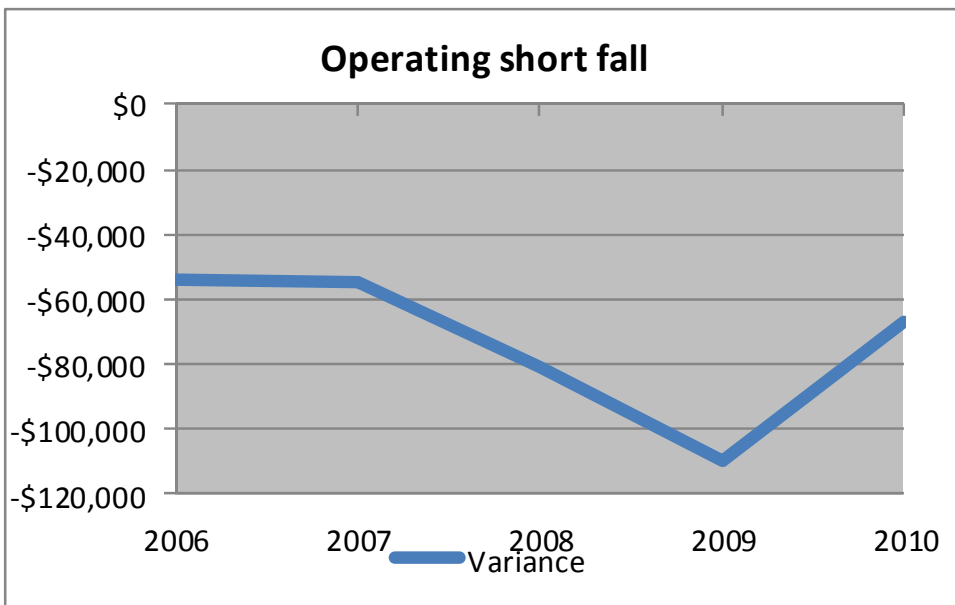
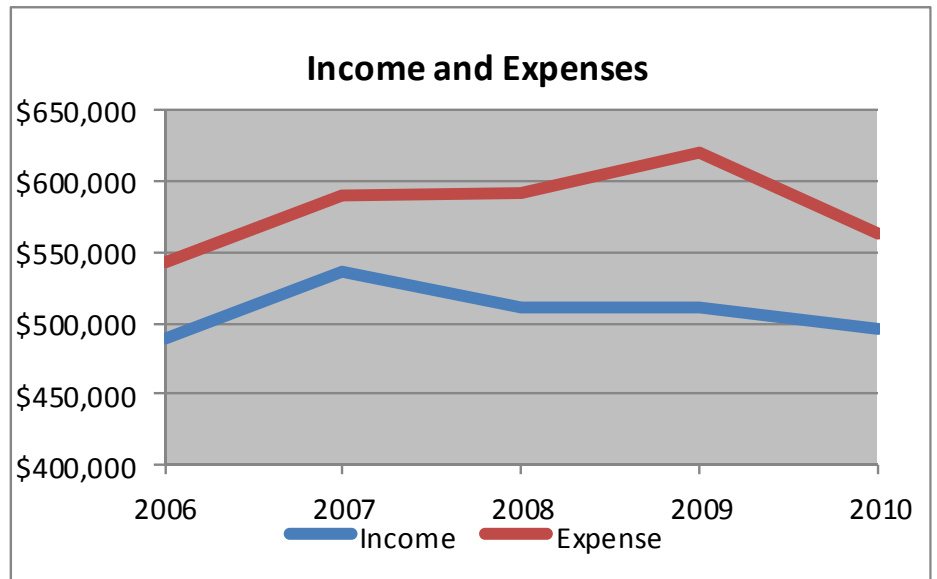
# Historical look at our Income and Expenses

The goal of the Vestry in building the church budget is to allocate funds to support the parish based on projections for income. Historically, we have been running operational deficits for the past five years. Our income has been in the \$500,000 range, while our expenses have averaged \$550,000.

In the chart to the right, you can see that the gap between income and expense was widening until last year. Last year the vestry made a decision to reduce dramatically our expenses. This included reductions in staff, and reductions in programs.

Income though has also been declining since 2007. A significant portion of this reduction is due to lower church membership.

The shortfall that we show is offset by funds that are withdrawn from our



By pulling principal from the investment funds we reduce future potential earnings. We also run the risk of depleting these resources that were entrusted to us.

On the other hand, the money was given to the church for the purpose of doing God's work and is being utilized to support the ministries of our parish.

It is this balancing of short term and long term needs that is the focus of the Finance and Investment Committee.

In the chart on the left, you can see the significant shortfall that occurred in 2009. With an operating shortfall of over \$109,000 the vestry made the decision to reduce expenses for 2010. The result was a return to a more modest shortfall. (A shortfall of a little over \$66,000)

## What does using our investment funds really mean?

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and their families who have remembered the parish in their planned giving we have been able to build an investment fund of approximately 1 million dollars. These funds are invested in a variety of investment tools and carefully monitored by the Finance and Investment Committee chaired by Bill Holly.

Some of the gifts given to the church are for specific purposes and these funds are used only for those designated purposes. These funds are listed as "restricted funds." Other funds are given to the parish to use as deemed appropriately by the vestry. These funds

are listed as "unrestricted funds."

Over the past several years we have used income from these investment funds to cover some of the normal operating costs of the parish. Increases in the amount of the investment funds have been from bequests. In 2010 the Vestry worked hard to establish a more balanced budget using income from pledges and other normal income streams to fund operation. This allowed the vestry to plan to use less income from investments.

# Step into your faith pledge

To the people of St. John's,

I am writing today to share a few thoughts on our parish and our stewardship campaign. As the Stewardship Chair, I have shared this message before. But I think it's a message worth repeating.

Think for a moment about the future of our parish. Close your eyes and imagine that it is 2013 or 2015. Imagine the new street scape on Beaver: the new neighborhood to our north; the new Charter school across the street. Imagine the sound of children playing, of families walking to Central Market, of St. John's being at the crossroads of a new vibrant downtown.

This year posed **BIG FINANCIAL CHALLENGES** for the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist. With the struggling economy it was clear that we were going to have to address our operating budget and reduce

our expenses to be more in line with contributions. The problem with this approach is that it doesn't allow us to prepare for the opportunities that will soon be here.

This year offers **BIG OPPORTUNITIES** for the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist. We have a lot of great programs underway. Father David has helped create real momentum in our outreach, and we have great programs being planned. Under Rodney's direction our music programs are inspiring. Imagine the future and how St. John's can play an important part.

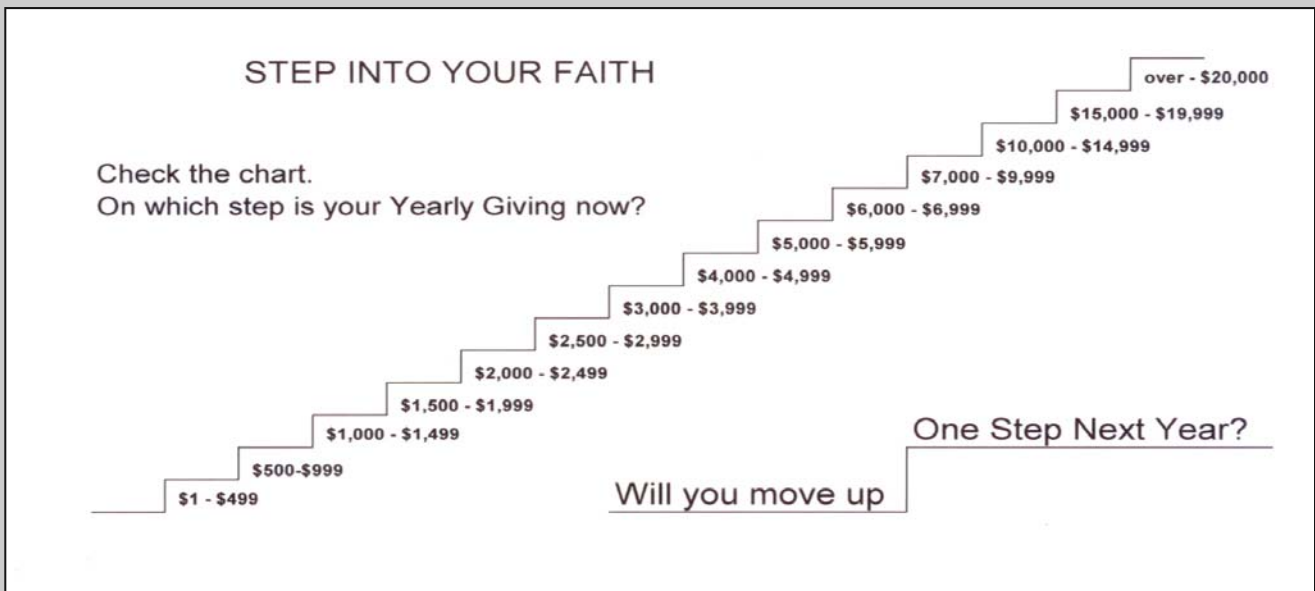
As we begin our Stewardship campaign for this year, we want to ask everyone to consider raising your financial support for the parish. You'll hear us talking a lot about pledging. But whether you chose to pledge or not, you can still commit to helping by increasing your financial support.



In this Easter season when we are called to reflect on Christ's meaning in our lives, I hope that you will prayerfully consider this decision. We need additional pledges to avoid further expense cuts. You can help. Just imagine the future that we can help create.

Sincerely,

Tom Russell



**Step into your faith Pledge:**

We are asking you to consider using the "Step Into Your Faith" steps to plan your giving. Take a look at your current yearly giving and mark that on the steps. Then ask yourself, will I be willing to move up one step next year?

That one step will go a long ways towards helping our parish increase our ministries. It will help provide us with the extra

resources to do more inside our parish family. It will give us the opportunity to reach out into our neighborhood and share the joy of Christ and of our church.

We hope that you will consider making a pledge. By pledging you give us a clearer picture of what our funding for the year will look like. This helps the vestry plan our operation. A pledge gives the parish a more predictable view. Simply, it helps us budget.

"Step into your faith" works though even if you don't want to pledge. You can still make your personal pledge to increase your giving. Either way, you will be helping the parish.

Remember, our pledging calendar is based on the churches fiscal year which is July 1, 2011 to June 20, 2012. So, these pledge commitments begin in July.