

## STEWARDSHIP QUARTERLY

This newsletter is intended to update the members of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church and our commitment to being good stewards of the gifts we have received.

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# Stewardship Quarterly

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## Neighborhood in transition creates opportunity

Typically when you build a strategic plan you have to close your eyes and try to predict what the future will look like. Will we see growth or decline?

Today, all you need to do is look at Beaver Street to see the trend. Our neighborhood is in transition. A new neighborhood is being built.

The question is what will our parish do to prepare for this? What strategies should we implement to maximize it's impact?

The rebuilding of our neighborhood provides a unique opportunity for St. John's and our vestry is looking for ways that we can prepare for the future. We'd like your thoughts on things that should be done.



*Sidewalks were first and now the water and utilities are being prepared. Construction will soon begin on the first phase of the project which will ultimately add 200+ homes.*

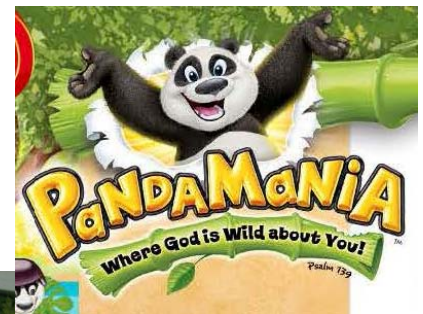
## PandaMania Vacation Bible School

PandaMania, ran from Sunday, June 19 to Thursday, June 23. The program began with dinner at 5:30 and concluded by 8:30 p.m. We had over 50 children from the parish and neighborhood involved with Vacation Bible School this year.

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

At PandaMania Vacation Bible School, kids rotate through seven stations each day with their Crews. Crews are small groups of similar age children with an adult and teenage Crew Leader. The daily Bible Point is reinforced in creative ways throughout vacation bible school.

Thanks to Holly Kahley who organized this program and all the volunteers who helped to make the program a huge success. Vacation Bible School is a wonderful summer learning opportunity for children. Christian Formation is at the heart of our efforts to assist everyone to know themselves as participants in the story of God's people.



*PandaMania provides exciting connection to Christian education.*

Did you know...  
Natural Gas,  
Electricity, and  
Water utilities are  
budgeted at  
\$28,445 for this  
year.

***“If there be any truer  
measure of a man than  
by what he does, it must  
be by what he gives.”*** —

ROBERT SOUTH (1634-  
1716), ENGLISH  
CLERGYMAN

***“He that gives all,  
though but little, gives  
much; because God  
looks not to the quantity  
of the gift, but to the  
quality of the givers.”*** —

FRANCIS QUARLES (1592-  
1644), AUTHOR

***“Dearest Lord, teach me  
to be generous; teach  
me to serve you as you  
deserve; to give and not  
to count the cost.”*** —

IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA (1491  
-1556), JESUIT FOUNDER

## Gift Card sales support Food Pantry

All of us go to the grocery store every week. Many of us shop at Giant or Weis. One way that you can support St. John’s outreach is to purchase gift cards. This past year those purchases allowed us to purchase over \$4,800 of food for the Food Pantry.

Each week eight to ten families are referred to the church to receive food for approximately a week. The food pantry provides a valuable service in our community and is another example of the ministries our parish engages to provide for people in need among us.

Janifer Nolte and Kendall Menzer have endured all sorts of weather conditions to sit in front of the church on Sunday morning offering us an opportunity to support a valuable ministry of the parish. If you have not done so, please remember to thank them.



*Purchasing gift cards is an easy way to support our outreach with out having to spend extra money.*

## Building expenses keep Property Committee busy

Repair projects this summer are not unusual for a buildings over two hundred years old. We have for years kept the heating system running in the Education/Office Building by making annual repairs. This year we were forced to replace it with a fuel efficient HVAC system. (heating and air conditioning)

This project will cost over \$140,000. It includes removal of asbestos and the pipes from the old system. In addition we have had to install an electric transformer, meter and electric service line to support the new system.

We are fortunate to have received a grant for \$130,000 to cover the majority of the cost of the project. The Vestry approved covering the additional costs with income from the real estate investment fund.



Like any historic site, .....Our stewardship goes beyond the operating costs of the parish and ministry to the larger community. We are stewards..... leaving the church buildings in good repair for future generations is part of our call to be good stewards. We have much to be grateful for at St. John and the beauty of the buildings we occupy is a blessing.

## Claggett Center hosts Parish Retreat

The Bishop Claggett Center once again hosted our parish retreat. Forty parishioners of all ages enjoyed the time spent together as a parish family. The food was fabulous, the conversation stimulating and the setting spectacular.

The Claggett Center in Maryland provides a great location for our annual parish retreat. In 1950 the school was given to the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. On May 17, 1952 the center was officially dedicated and named the Claggett Diocesan Center after Thomas John Claggett, the first Bishop ordained on American soil.

We are fortunate to have this Episcopal facility available to us in close proximity.



*Bishop Claggett Center in Maryland provides a convenient location for our annual retreat.*

## “Walk with Jesus” adds another opportunity for children

Easter provides the perfect opportunity to tell the story of Jesus last week on this earth as a reminder of God's love for each of us. This year we continued a program begun several years ago to engage our children in an interactive story telling experience.



*Diana Scheide helped lead a program to help our children better understand the week that led to Easter.*



The children traced the journey of Jesus from the Last Supper, to the crucifixion and then shared the excitement of the resurrection. This is one more opportunity we provide our children to have fun learning the story that defines our lives as Christians.

## Bell Choir adds to music program at St. John's

We are blessed with a varied music program at St. John under the direction of Rodney Barnett. The Handbell Choir is one of several opportunities for the musically talented to share in liturgical leadership. The Handbell Choir is featured regularly in the context of our worship.

The first tuned handbells were developed by brothers Robert and William Cor in Aldbourne, Wiltshire, England, between 1696 and 1724. Handbells were first brought to the United States from England by Margaret Shurcliff in 1902. She was presented with a set of 10 handbells in London by Arthur Hughes.

Our handbell choir adds wonderful musical color to our worship service. The rich tones and the resonance truly are divine.



*Rodney directs the bell choir which brings another rich Anglican tradition to our worship service.*

## 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 financially challenged 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.



# Investment in our future



A former Rector used to remind us, "the church is one generation away from extinction." This comment highlights the value of providing opportunities for our young people to learn of their identity as God's children.

What we do as a parish to support our children is critical. Diana Scheide has been a leader and advocate for children's programs. Diana has begun studies at Sewanee to accept a call to ordered ministry. This leaves the parish with the challenge of continuing the programs we have for children of all

ages. We are thankful for the leadership of so many younger members this summer during Bible School and in the Sunday School program. We continue to welcome volunteer leaders as we seek to enrich and expand our ministry to children and youth.

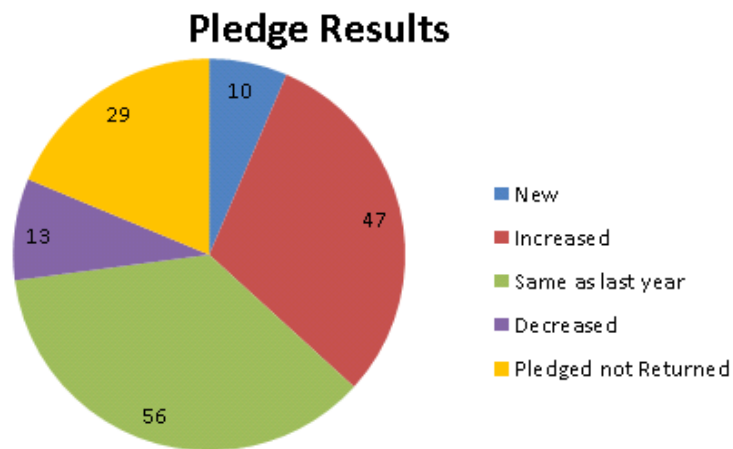
The Vestry believes a strong program for children will attract younger families as they move into the surrounding neighborhood. Our efforts to support programs for children is an investment in the future.

## 2012 Pledges on tract to goal - follow up still underway

As we begin our new fiscal church year, our pledge campaign is nearly complete. We asked our parish members to participate in our "Step into Your Faith" campaign. We are pleased with the results. We have 10 new pledges and 47 increased pledges so far. As importantly we only have 13 decreases.

Of course, there are still 29 people who pledged last year that we've not heard from yet this year. That group represents about \$44,000 in pledges last year. So we are a long ways from being to our goal. Last year we had \$327,000 in pledges. This year so far we have \$317,000. If all who pledged last year renew their commitment for this pledge year, we shall exceed the amount pledged in 2010-2011.

Thanks to everyone who increased your pledge this year. We know that it is still a tough economic environment and your support of the parish is greatly appreciated!



### A comment from Tom Russell, Chairman of Stewardship Committee: A letter to the people of St. John's

Dear People of St. John's,

We began this spring, as we prepared for our annual parish member canvas, to shift the conversation away from the past and towards the future. We wanted to avoid conversations about deficits, about declining resources, and the net affects of making tough choices. Rather, we wanted to look to the future and the possibilities that are in store for our church.

During the pledge campaign, I asked you to close your eyes for a moment and imagine that it was 2013. Imagine the new streetscape 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 neighborhood.

We have a great caring congregation - we are involved in the community - we have programs for children - we have great music - and we have well planned liturgy. The key is how do we leverage who we are, how do we invest in our future? How do we ensure that a generation from now St. John's continues to be a growing and vibrant parish?

Stewardship is more than just the financial support of our parish. Stepping into our faith means welcoming others into our community and striving to meet their needs. How we are perceived by others

depends on the people who compose the faith community. It depends on our willingness to be involved in the activities and ministries of the parish.

Investing in the future is a question that we as a parish need to be thinking about. Where do we see our parish? What are we as individuals willing to do to help? As we continue our Christian journey, I hope you will join me in thoughtful prayer about where our journey should lead us.

Yours in Christ,

Tom Russell