

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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Vacation Bible School offers outreach into the community

This year's program is The High Seas. Our program will run from Sunday, July 18 to Thursday, July 22. The program begins with dinner at 5:30 and concludes by 8:30 p.m. All children ages 4 -12 are welcome to attend. If you can volunteer to help or would like more information, contact Holly Kahley at 225-4312.



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

We had 50 children involved with Vacation Bible School last year. We have done VBS on our own for three or four years now.

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.

Feast of St. John the Baptist on the lawn

On Sunday, June 27th we celebrated the feast of St. John the Baptist. Lunch on the lawn consisted of a pig pickin' picnic on the front lawn. The menu included pulled pork, barbecued chicken, potato salad, rolls, dessert and drinks. We had a wonderful time celebrating together.

The nativity of St. John the Baptist is celebrated on June 24th each year. Because our parish is named after him, we celebrate his birth with a picnic lunch on the last Sunday of June. The Council of Agde, in 506, listed the Nativity of Saint John among the highest feasts of the year, a day on which all faithful had to attend Mass and abstain from servile work.

At St. John's, we use the feast day for fellowship. A picnic lunch on the lawn is a great opportunity to share a meal with our parish family.



Lunch on the lawn on a beautiful summer day gave everyone a chance for fellowship.

Bible study provides spiritual growth opportunity

The Bible study group meets in the Rector's Study on Wednesdays after the 10:00 service during the academic year. All adults are invited to join.

We read and study the lessons for the coming Sunday. Those who participate find that reading and talking about the lessons prior to Sunday enriches their worship experience.

The Psalmist declared, "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11). He understood the importance of studying and knowing God's word so that he could live according to His will and perfect plan. God has graciously revealed Himself through the Bible and calls us to read and know all that He has said.

This is another ministry available to the congregation and all are encouraged to attend.



This bible study took place at the parish retreat in April. The regular bible study group meets after the Wednesday morning service in the Rector's study.

*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

St. John's support for Ugandan students

St. John, through the Outreach Committee, has provided scholarship support for five Ugandan students in the district of Kasese, Uganda, through the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation. Ugandans have to pay for children to attend school.

The Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation focuses on providing scholarship support for students whose families are affected by HIV/AIDS.

These youth have lost one or both parents, or the parents are too ill to work to provide money for school.

Many children are orphaned and living with grandparents or relatives. The Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation works to break the cycle of HIV/AIDS through education.

Education empowers the youth to better understand the world around them and to make better life decisions. Education also enables them to find better employment and to improve their standard of living.

Some students continue on to higher education after the completion of secondary school. We provide \$330 per student, which is the current cost to support a primary or secondary student for a year. The additional funding for advanced schooling is provided by the BMCF from other donors.

The students currently supported are:

- Hubert Baluku, Uganda Technical Institute, Bushenyi
- Nuha Baluku, Buhinga School of Medical Assistants, Fort Portal
- Damalie Lhusenge, Kyambugo University
- Elisha B. Monday, Bwindibugyo Teacher's College
- Jackline Masika, Kasese Secondary School

If you wish to contribute to this effort or support a child's education, contact Milton Leake at 757-7097. The BMCF web site is www.bmcf.org.

Connections dinners define fellowship

Once a quarter parish members have an opportunity to gather for dinner as part of connections program. Connections is intended to strengthen the friendship bonds of the parish. Each quarter we have a different theme for the evening. The purpose in the Fall is a Halloween dinner and party that focuses on the children. There have been game nights in the winter, in the spring we make palm crosses for Palm Sunday and the summer has been a picnic type dinner.

On Sunday morning there is little time to do more than greet people. Connections is intended for us to get to know each other better and to include all ages. We talk about parish families but many events segregate us by age group. Connections is intended to provide an opportunity for all of us children and grandparents alike to come together, share a meal and enjoy a good time.



Connections is intended to strengthen friendship bonds of the parish.

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

This June we began the formation of St. Zita's guild. The guild will be 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.



Feature Outreach: 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.

Below is a list of food pantry items needed.

- Peanut butter, jelly, Crackers, soup, Spam, tuna, fruit, Potatoes, vegetables, Cereal, pancake mix, Syrup, oatmeal Spaghetti, rice, spaghetti sauce, snacks Meat, tuna*

Pledge Campaign Update for 2010

This year to date we have 138 pledges as opposed to 164 last year. The average pledge is increased but we obviously have not heard from a number of people. Of the pledges received 43 have been increased. It is not too late to make a pledge for the 2010-2011 pledge year. Pledge cards are available on the table at the front of the church or by calling the office.

Episcopal Relief and Development

In 2009, Episcopal Relief & Development reached more than 2.5 million people in over 40 countries around the world. This partnership with the worldwide Church creates opportunities to serve communities in some of the most remote areas of the world, as well as in urban environments where extreme poverty persists.



Paroquia Santo Estevao says thank you

The Rev. Carolino of our companion parish in Aracatuba, Sao Paulo, Brazil sent a note on behalf of the people of Paroquia Santo Estevao (St. Stephen's parish) thanking the people of St. John the Baptist in York for their generous support. We provided funding for a laptop computer to be used for their services and to support their ministry.



They were also able to purchase a projector. Carolino sent a card he produced showing us the computer in use in the church.

Lyn Sloan - a model of stewardship

For the past ten plus years we have been blessed to have Linda Sloan, CPA, work closely with John Susie, the parish financial administrator. Lyn has assisted us to assure accuracy of all accounts and provide oversight for our financial transactions. Thanks to Lyn we have counters who assist each Monday morning to record the Sunday offering.

We have an annual audit of the accounts by an outside accounting firm to make sure we are meeting proper accounting practices. Lyn has reconciled all bank accounts and worked with the Finance and Investment Committee.

Her ministry to our parish is immeasurable and the countless hours she has spent working on our behalf have been a valuable gift to us all. Saying, "thank you," inadequately expresses the appreciation of all of us for Lyn's ministry on behalf of our parish. We wish Lyn and Sam God's richest blessings as they move into a new phase of their lives.

When we think of stewardship and being goods stewards both Lyn and Sam are great models of service and support for our parish. Both have served as valuable ministers in our parish and they will be sorely missed. We are grateful to David Hogeman and Steve Stetler who have agreed to work with John Susie to continue oversight and assurance of accuracy of our financial transactions and accounts.

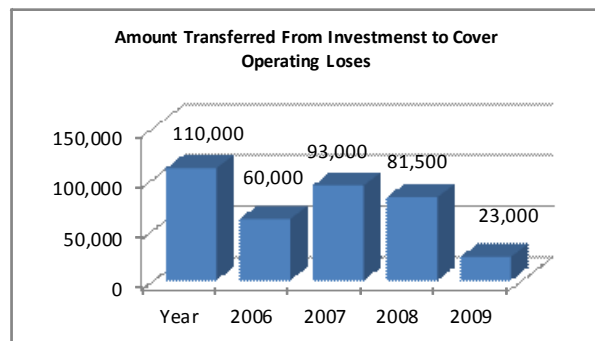


What does using our investment funds really mean?

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 established 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

for normal operating costs. The hope is that we can protect the investment funds and grow them for future generations. Remembering the church in your estate planning is a great way to pass on the legacy you enjoy at St. John!



A comment from Scott Weaver, Chairman of Stewardship Committee: Why proportional Giving?

As we complete our pledge drive for this year, it's a great time to share with you the idea of increasing your gifts to the church each year. Our parish needs your support. By making plans now to increase your pledge percent next year you'll have ample time to adjust your family budget.

Proportional giving is giving back to God a measured portion of what God has given us in a committed and faithful manner. The Biblical guideline for tithing is 10% of the net income, given to further God's work in the world.

Proportional giving, and giving a percentage of our income – increasing each year toward or beyond the tithe – is a process that helps us overcome our self-centeredness.

Ultimately, this kind of integrated stewardship will help deepen and mature our faith as we

Giving Guide

Annual Income	Weekly Income	1%	3%	5%	8%	10%	12%
\$20,800	\$400	\$4	\$12	\$20	\$32	\$40	\$48
\$31,200	\$600	\$6	\$18	\$30	\$48	\$60	\$72
\$41,600	\$800	\$8	\$24	\$40	\$64	\$80	\$96
\$52,000	\$1,000	\$10	\$30	\$50	\$80	\$100	\$120
\$62,400	\$1,200	\$12	\$36	\$60	\$96	\$120	\$144
\$72,800	\$1,400	\$14	\$42	\$70	\$112	\$140	\$168
\$83,200	\$1,600	\$16	\$48	\$80	\$128	\$160	\$192
\$83,600	\$1,800	\$18	\$54	\$90	\$144	\$180	\$216

recognize and accept our role in a creative relationship with God.

At the time of this issue of Stewardship quarterly our final numbers were not in. But we are thankful to all who pledged and more importantly to those that were able to increase their pledges over last year.

During these financially challenging times, we need the support of all parish members in helping to sustain the outreach and programs that are provided at St. John's.

Thanks again for your support and please take a look at your giving levels now and how with just a little bit of effort you can increase your pledge for next year.