

## 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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## Godly Play and Christian Formation



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.



Storytelling is a key component of Godly Play.

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.

Children in grades 4 through 6 engaged in a curriculum based on the Scripture readings for the day called "Living the Good News." The 7th grade and above have formed a group we are calling Teen Leaders.

They plan to do a service project and a fun activity each month. Teens are encouraged to join in the activities of this group as they build community and serve the church.

## Fundraising effort begins on Ebay



This years parish budget has \$8,000 allocated for an additional fund raising event. Since we already have a number of activities underway, we wanted to try something different. This month we are launching "the Ebay gathering".

We are asking all parish members to take a look at home for items that you could donate to the parish that can be sold on Ebay. We are looking for items that have a value above \$50.00.

There are a number of categories of things to consider. Collectibles, autographed sports memorabilia, name brand watches, vintage items, and new items all make great ebay items.

Most of us have items in the basement or closet that we've been holding on to for years. Why not help the parish by donating it to "the gathering"?

Information will be available on how to make your donation. We will provide a receipt for the donation. You can bring your items to the parish office and we will have a designated place for them to be placed.

Our goal is to generate \$1,000 a month in additional revenue. This means we need 20 items at \$50.00 or 10 items at \$100.00 per month.

So, take time now to begin your search. If you have questions about whether it is an item that might have value, feel free to write an email to the parish office.

Ebay provides a great market of buyers and with the right items, we should reach our goal!

## Freezer Sale set for November 20th

*Did you know that Medical insurance costs the parish over \$42,000 per year?*

Divine Delights Freezer Sale this year will be on Saturday, November 20. There is a task for everyone on the Saturdays prior to the sale as items are prepared and frozen.

Lead cooks have preparations and ingredients down to a fine science and volunteers will find a task suitable to their abilities. The Freezer Sale has provided approximately \$8000 in income annually allowing our parish to continue to support a variety of ministries.

We are grateful for all the hard work and time that makes this project a success.

Make your plans now to attend the sale. Our goal is to sell out! Be sure to pass the word to friends and neighbors. This has become an annual event in our community and the effort of all involved is greatly appreciated!



*Cooks have been working for the past several months preparing delicious dishes for the sale.*

*"I do not believe we can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare." - C.S. Lewis*

*"Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not the shepherds take care of the flock?" - Ezekiel 34:2*

*"A lot of people are willing to give God the credit, but not too many are willing to give God the cash." - Anonymous*

## 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.

## Blessing of the pets takes place in October

St. Francis is known for his concern for the poor and love of all of God's creation. Francis is reported to have been able to talk to the animals. He urged God's children to be aware of the wonders of creation and delight in the other creatures who live around us.

We celebrated the Festival of St. Francis of Assis with our own blessing of the pets on October 3rd. We had a lunch on the lawn and games for children to go along with this annual tradition. The weather cooperated and everyone present enjoyed the festivities. This is just one of many of the holiday celebrations that take place during the year as part of our episcopal faith.



*Games made the day fun for kids and pets alike.*

# St. Zita's Guild is providing valuable support to parish

St. Zita's guild was formed this summer to help provide support for the many chores required to keep our parish operating. With the staff cuts brought about by our downsized budget, there were a long list of activities that needed attention. Thanks to the dozens of volunteers this work is being done and we are looking at adding projects to our list.

If you have a few hours to spare a week we would love to have you join in the work.

The charter members are: Beverly Altland, Emily Atwood, Barbara Boyer, Bob Boyer, Jack Bray, Tammy Bray, Marlene Corcoran, Byron Daudelin, Ray Delp, Ruth Delp, Brian Hershner, Pattie Hogeman, Ruth Huff, Kathy Johnson, Mike Lawrence, Beth Lawson, Milton Leake, Susan Leake, Jane Linebaugh, Steve Linebaugh, Bernadette Livingston, Linda Lopez, Elaine Lovelace, Rich Lutz, Sue Lutz, Jerri-Lee McCleary, Dan Ness, Michelle Norton, Olive Padden, Barry Peters, Jane Peters, Bill Poole, Michelle Poole, Steve Robertson, Susan Robertson, Sherrie Rotell, Nancy Rowley, Diana Scheide, Polly Stetler, Alison Vedder, Chris Vedder, Dan Wagner, Brian Wood, and Susan Wood.

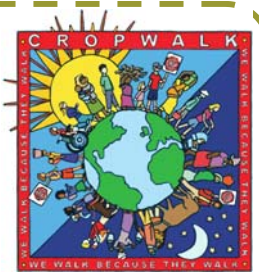


Ground maintenance is one of the many volunteer opportunities being addressed by St. Zita's Guild

## Feature Outreach: 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 thence to the entrance to Regent's Glen and return.



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

## Foyer Groups formed for fall

The word "Foyer" means "hearthside" implying the intimacy of the home. Foyer groups at St. John are groups of six to eight people who gather monthly to share conversation and build the bonds of friendship among members of the parish. Foyer groups normally meet monthly for nine months. Many groups decide to share a meal but the structure of the gathering is determined by the Foyer group. For newer members among us, Foyers is a wonderful way to build relationships in the parish and make new friends. For old timers, Foyers is an excellent opportunity to widen your circle of friends.

## Box Tops/Labels for education and soda can tabs

We collect Box Tops and Labels for Education to support the PTO at Ferguson Elementary School, which is near St. John's and soda can tabs that are sent to support the Ronald McDonald House at Hershey, PA. Collection boxes are in the parish hall.

## Education building receives new ceiling

The good news is no one was hurt when the ceiling fell down in one of the rooms upstairs in the education building. But the reality was there, we needed to do a major repair job on all of the ceilings. Additionally, we were having some major electrical problems.

Both of these problems created a project to replace all the light fixtures and put in new ceilings in all of the rooms in the education building. We were able to get a great price on the work and we are pleased to report

that all the work has been completed. The project in total cost a little over \$23,000. The money came from our property investment account.

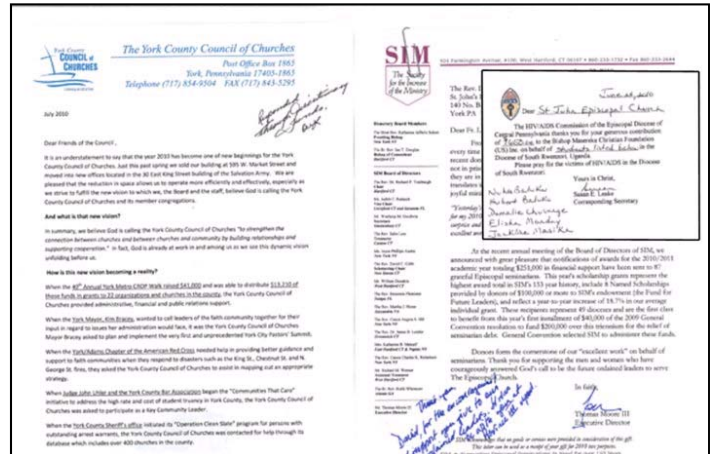
Our education building still has some major challenges. Probably the largest is the heating and the lack of air conditioning.

# Thank You's recognize our outreach

Every month we receive thank you's from organizations in our community and around the world for gifts that have come from our parish.

Here are three that we received this month. The small card is from the HIV/Aids commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA for a contribution we made to the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation on behalf of students in the Diocese of South Rwenzori, Uganda.

The other two letters are from SIM (the Society for the Increase of the Ministry) and the York County Council of Churches. All three are examples of our outreach here in our community and around the world. St. John's is making a difference in the world today!

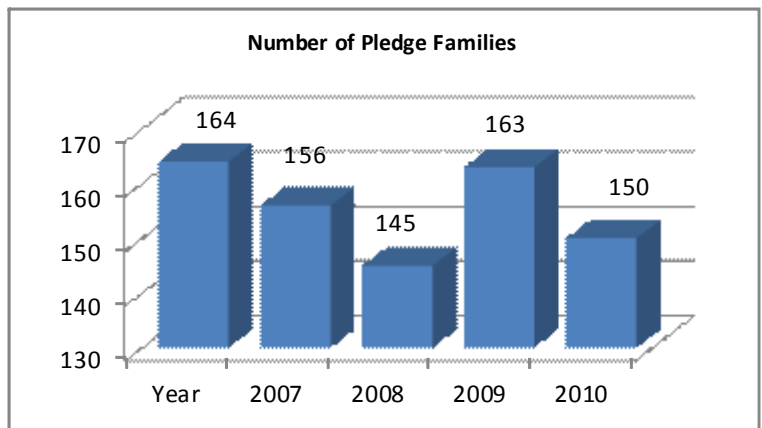


# Pledges decline for 2011

The impacts of the economic downturn have certainly had their effects locally. Even at our parish, we are seeing the effects. Even though there are still a few pledges that will be received, we can report that our pledges are down from 2010. Last year we had pledges of \$366,518. So far this year, pledges are in at \$332,337. That is a \$33,821 shortfall or 9.6%.

The biggest change was the number of pledging families. Last year we had 163 pledge cards turned in. This year the number is 150. That represented a significant step backwards in our efforts to improve our financial position.

Our hope is that as the economy begins to rebound members of our parish will be able to strengthen their support of the church. We all need to look at the ministries of the parish and consider its importance.



## A comment from Scott Weaver, Chairman of Stewardship Committee: How to be a Steward?

### A Guide to Financial Giving at St. John's.

Fall brings with it a time of reflection about the many gifts that we have received this year. The blessings in our parish are many and as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday we have a renewed appreciation for the bounty of the harvest.

This is a great time to reflect on the stewardship that we have all been called on to provide. Stewardship to our land, to our country, to our community, and to our parish. I thought I would share with you some thoughts on stewardship and on how to be a good steward. These thoughts came from another episcopal church, but I think are relevant for us here at St. John's.

- Give what you can, and give it cheerfully – the point isn't the amount of your annual pledge to St. John's, but the attitude with which it is made.
- Responsible and disciplined financial stewardship – giving back to God a portion of what God has given us – is critical to spiritual health.  
  
Give freely, bountifully to God's work through the work of our parish, and we will all reap bountifully – internally, in running the parish, and externally in our many important outreach ministries.
- Proportionate giving, in which one starts by pledging some percentage of one's annual pre-tax income and

then increasing that percentage in subsequent years, makes it easy to become a "cheerful giver" and to begin to let go of the hold that the "love of money" has on all of us. An accompanying chart shows how to begin.

- Pledges can be made weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. The pledging process is simple, with individual pledge amounts kept confidential; tax statements are issued to those who wish to deduct their pledge contributions from their taxable income.

Join us in a reflection about stewardship during this wonderful time of the year where thanksgiving is all around us.