

## 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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## This is My Church!

Worshiphouse Media created the concept that we are adapting as our stewardship campaign. If you would like to see the video [click here](#) to link to it.

So what does St. John’s mean to you? If you were to fill in the blank, “my church is .....”, what would you say? How would you describe in a word or two what it means to you?

As we look at our parish and our roles as parish members we want to focus on this question. We are looking for all of us to find ways that we can help in the ministries of our parish. We are looking for ways to get more of us actively involved so we become a stronger parish.

There are literally hundreds of ministries that



take place on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis in the parish. If we can get more people involved, it makes what we do easier to accomplish. We hope you will join us in saying “This is my Church!”

## Brats and Brew kicks off Time and Talent survey

On Sunday October 23rd after the 10 O’clock service we took a moment to celebrate a Oktoberfest with a Brats and Brew on the parish lawn. Over 120 people attended the luncheon which offered root beer and assorted samples of local micro brews.

The day started off a little chilly but it was really a pretty nice day by the time our event began. It was great to have a chance to be outdoors for this great fall event.

Tom Warman and his first ever polka band provided the entertainment.



Long lines for lunch on a great fall day.



Nice crowd on the lawn for “brats and brew”

In addition to great food and fellowship it also gave us a chance to launch our fall time and talent appeal. We used the “This is my church” theme and passed out the time and talent surveys.

Thanks to Susan Ariail and her committee for helping put together the event. Also thanks to Scott Weaver for being our micro brew sample pourer and for his overall assistance.

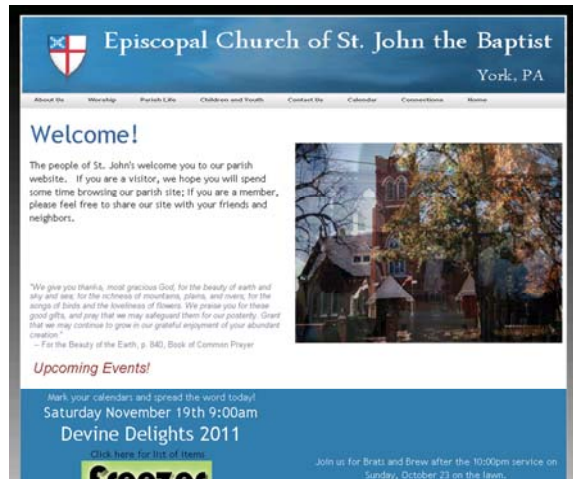
This was our first fall event. We hope those that attended had a good time. We would like to have your feedback—should we make this a regular fall event at St. John?

## New Church Website launched!

We've got a new website! ([www.stjohnyork.org](http://www.stjohnyork.org)) The site has a new navigation structure, more photo's, ties to Facebook, Twitter, and Google Calendar, and more content.

The key to navigating is the drop down menus that lie underneath the banner across the top of each page. Just place your mouse on one of the words like "About Us" and let it hover for just a moment. You should then see a drop down menu that shows other pages in that section. By moving your mouse across that banner you can get an idea of the organization of pages.

The next step is to get parish members who are willing to help keep the content updated. If you have an interest, contact Dean Kimball at [dkimball26@comcast.net](mailto:dkimball26@comcast.net).



New website provides connections to all social media

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

## Freezer Sale set for November 19th

Divine Delights Freezer Sale this year will be on Saturday, November 19. 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 outreach ministries.

We are grateful to our many volunteers 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!

Remember Saturday November 19th! This is a fantastic opportunity to stock up on gourmet foods right before Thanksgiving holiday!

## Time and Talent Survey time

When asked, most of us are willing to help out. The problem is we do not know what really needs to be done.

Our parish continues to expand our ministries both in the parish and in the community. The result of this is an ever increasing list of projects where we could use help.

Beginning this fall we are rebuilding our volunteer stewardship efforts. The plan is to use a fall campaign on "Time and Talent" and then Easter season for "Treasure" campaign in our every member canvas.

If you haven't done so, we hope that you will take time to fill out the Time & Talent survey. There are copies in the Narthex at the church or you [can click on this link](#) to fill it out online.

### This is My Church!

Time & Talent Survey 2011-12 for the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist

All of us as Parish members have something to offer. And as St. John's, we need everyone to be involved in the life of the parish. Finding the right match and the right opportunities to serve is what this survey is intended to accomplish. Please complete the survey by filling in your name and contact info and then checking all of the boxes where you would be willing to volunteer or to hear more about the project.

Name:

Email:

Phone:

**Ministry Opportunities – Committee participation**  
 Committees play an important role in the life of the parish. As a committee member you help provide support to a number of activities. Most committees meet monthly. The following are the committee opportunities available:

- Associates Vestry - plans and implements events in the life of the parish. Welcomes volunteers who can be called on to help with set up and clean up. Volunteers to help prepare meals for various events.
- Finance and Investment Committee - Provides financial and investment management and advice for the parish. This includes development of church budget and endowment fund investment strategies.
- Stewardship - Volunteers to serve on the committee that plans and implements the Spring fund raising opportunity on behalf of the parish. Similar plans for a Fall Time and Talent Ministry pledge.
- Outreach Committee - Volunteer with a passion for ministry in the community to serve as Chair of the Committee. Out reach includes a number of ministry efforts in the community.
- Christian Formation - Volunteer with a passion for education, work with youth, organization of formation offerings, faith development to serve on Committee.
- Music - Singers are encouraged to become part of the St. John's Choir. Music readers willing to learn to ring hand bells.
- Communication - Volunteers to help organize an effort to reach out and welcome the downtown community. Knowledgeable persons to assist with multiple technological enhancements. Writers for the monthly Advocate.
- Property Committee - Volunteers to serve on the Property Committee. Volunteers to assist with various maintenance concerns. Gardeners willing to adopt a portion of the church grounds.

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# Godly Play and Christian Formation



At St. John's we are committed to preparing the next generation of parishioners. We do this through our Christian formation programs.

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.

We have a great group of adult volunteers who are helping to make this program a success. We continue to build plans to strengthen our youth initiatives and more information will be presented at our annual parish meeting.



## Piano expands our music program capabilities

When it comes to piano's, Steinway is known as the finest in the world. So when our Music Director tracked one down that was in our price range, the Vestry gave him the green light to purchase the piano. Thanks to some generous donations, we now have a world class piano in our sanctuary.

Steinway & Sons was founded in 1853 by German immigrant Henry Engelhard Steinway in a Manhattan loft on Varick Street. Steinway is dedicated to the ideal of making the finest pianos in the world. The result is instruments renowned for their unsurpassed quality. Pianos with such superior sound and responsive touch that they enchant the most demanding pianists.

Rodney has had several local pianist play our piano, and they have all given him a real "thumbs up". Our plans are to find ways to invite the public into our church for recitals. The goal is to use this wonderful treasure as a strategy for encouraging new members.

*Rodney did a lot of research and work to track down our piano. This is truly an investment in our future.*



## 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.

## 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.

# Invest in the Future - Vestry to present initiative at Annual Meeting



*Construction on Beaver over the summer highlighted the changes coming to our neighborhood.*

Over the past decade it is clear that our church membership has been declining. There is no question that nationally there is a trend in church declines, so it is fair to say that we are not alone. However, in our parish it is also due to an aging parish population. We have a choice, do we continue to decline and therefore continue to reduce our expense structure, or do we make a strategic effort to reverse this trend?

The Northwest Triangle redevelopment efforts offer great potential for a rebirth of the down-

town community. The addition of the charter school, the proximity to the stadium, combined with future new homes position the church to be at the center of a vibrant new neighborhood.

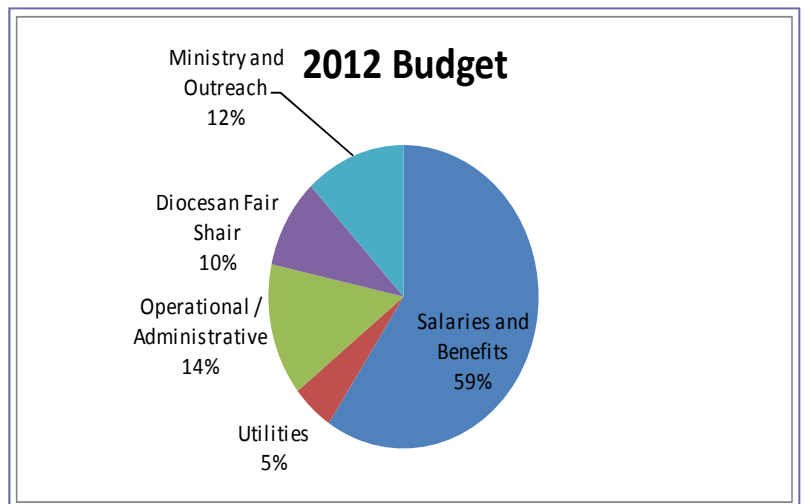
The "Invest for the Future" initiative will use endowment funds to supplement the operating budget providing resources to attract and retain greater participation. Simply put, we want to strengthen our ministries and fellowship to make St. John's a parish that is attractive to visitors and guests.

## 2012 Budget set at \$642,000 in expenses

The finishing work on the budget is still underway in the finance committee, but the general plan has been approved by the vestry. This year's budget calls for expenses to be near \$642,000. That is up \$88,000 from last year's budget. The majority of this increase is expense plans for additional staff to support the "Invest for the Future" strategy.

Revenues are planned to be around \$518,000 with the remainder coming from our investment accounts. In total, the budget calls on using \$124,000 from our investment account.

Salaries and benefits are the single largest category and amount to approximately \$480,000. Operational / Administrative expenses are next at \$115,000. Ministry and Outreach is third with \$98,000 of which \$70,000 is part of the Invest in the Future plan.



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

Dear People of St. John's,

I think each of us has a reason for why we attend St. John's. My guess is that we have a personal connection in some way. Maybe because we grew up here. Maybe because our children were baptized here. Maybe because we like the historical feel.

For me, it was our kids and wanting them to be in a church with a good Christian Formation program. Back then, St. Andrew's just didn't have the youth programs and we came to St. John's because it did.

But now that my kids have grown up and moved out of town, I have a different set of reasons. "My church is a place where I go to feel spiritually renewed".

That's the point of our new stewardship theme. We are looking to personalize the connection. We hope that each parish member will think deeply about what St. John's means to you. What is it that would get you to say "My church is...."?

As a parish we are truly blessed. We have lots of ministries taking place within the parish and also in the community at large. We have a wonderful music program and a worship service that highlights the great Anglican traditions.

As a vestry we have been struggling with the issue of sustaining our parish for the long term. We've been focusing on attracting new members and growth.

But the big issue we are wrestling with is

philosophical: are we doing this to attract new members so that we become "a community of believers that welcomes all people to celebrate God's presence in the world," or will becoming that community attract new members?

Our belief is that we have to start working from the inside out: strengthen our parish so that people - both current and members-to-be - want to be in our community.

That's what we mean by "This is my church!". I hope you will join us in this effort.

Yours in Christ,

*Tom Russell*