

“Rector’s Ramblings...”

Grace and peace to you. Well, it’s that time of year again... yes, it’s stewardship time. That time we pray about, discern, compile, evaluate, plan, dream and execute our budget for the coming year. I’m not sure why it’s so difficult to talk about money, but it is. We, as a church family, struggle each year to meet our budget, and we really don’t have to. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to have to worry about what we do with all the monies left over after having paid all our bills and met all our obligations? The issues we might have to deal with include but are not limited to: experiencing and enabling our trusted endowment to build itself more substantially and with greater ease; which company do we award the installation of a handicap lift/elevator in our church space; having the outreach committee formulate the amounts of money we can give to help others, to feed the poor, to shelter and clothe the homeless; to pick different charities and organizations each year to further their ministries and causes. How do we do that? It’s called *tithing*; the giving of ten percent of our time, talent and treasure back to God. Me tithe, we ask? Why not? Remember the ten dimes? One dime is the 10% tithe and the remaining nine dimes equals the 90% which is ours to live on and do with as we please.

We might think that the thankful giving of ten percent of our time, talent and treasure to God is impossible. But once we have accepted the fact that this is something we are called to do, the path toward tithing becomes easier. The first step, however, calls for some rethinking.

For starters, we have to change some ideas we might have about giving. The first to go is, “I’ll give my fair share.” This has no relationship to the practice of Christian stewardship, and is often little more than an exercise of the rule of the minimum. This is the kind of thinking that inspires questions such as “What is the least I can give and still be a member in good standing?”

Pledging to “help balance the church budget” is another idea that needs to fall by the wayside. According to this way of thinking, we calculate the *least* amount of money needed to keep the church building open, run a few programs, and pay the clergy. This can hardly be considered an adequate and faithful response to God’s love. A good steward does not ask, “How little can I do?” but rather, “How much have I been blessed?”

As we continue to think about tithing, it is important to remember that God’s work is carried out by many secular and voluntary groups responding to human need around the world. Schools, hospitals, and many charitable organizations also need our time, talent and treasure, for they, too, are doing God’s work. If a portion of our tithe goes in this direction, our giving will symbolically form a cross, being both vertical and horizontal.

We – the individual giver – must prayerfully decide in what direction our tithe will go and how it will be divided. This is a matter between us and our God. We must also determine whether our tithe will be based on gross or net income; how we will continue to meet family and work responsibilities in the giving of our time; and what portion of our abilities we can share and still fulfill our other obligations.

It might be helpful to think in terms of percentages. Ask, “What percentage of my time, talent and treasure can I joyfully and thankfully give to God this year?” It might be three or four or five percent. Figure on a percentage, then try it. The next year, increase this percentage. Before long, we will be tithing.

“Rector’s Ramblings...” (continued)

It may take three, four or more years, but ultimately we will reach the tithe – the Christian standard. And with God’s help, we can move beyond it to truly generous giving. This is how others who tithe have accomplished it.

I know that money is tight. *I know* that times are tough. *I know* that for some they can give no more. *I know* that for some they live on fixed incomes. *I know* that for others there is ample room in which to improve their giving. Somewhere in the midst of all this are the funds needed to accomplish what we need to do, and to take us to a place where we need to be. Surprisingly, we will neither go broke nor will we become exhausted. We will learn how to budget our time, our talent and our treasure to respond in thanks for 100 percent of the gifts God has given each of us. We will become a skillful manager of our resources – a good and faithful steward.

In these uncertain financial times, many of us hesitate to increase our commitment. Yet I believe that God gives us the strength to do what God leads us to do. Leading by example, Roberta and I will continue to maintain our pledge commitment of tithing to the church even though our own personal life and financial circumstances have changed with Roberta experiencing a career change and having gone back to school during this past year. In light of this, our 2010 pledge commitment will continue to be tithing our 10% to the church. We do this because we are called to do this, we need to do this. It is our gift back to God for the blessings in our lives. Think about the gifts God has given each of us in our lives and come join us in this endeavor to tithe back to God what belongs to God.

Me, tithe? Why not? Of course we can. Think about it. Pray about it. Do it. Take care my friends, and may God continue to bless us in all that we are called to do.

Peace,

PLEASE NOTE: WEEKLY SATURDAY EVENING EUCHARIST WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 5:00 P.M.
Come and join us as we build the type and style of service together. Regular Sunday services will continue to be held at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. in the church proper.

Saturday, November 14, 2009

The flowers are given to the glory of
God and in loving memory of
Lynn Poniatowski by The Poniatowski Family.

DEACON'S CORNER

Dear Friends in Christ,

First of all I would like to thank you for all your cards, prayers, and good wishes. I certainly found a way to slow my life down for a few days and once again had lots of time to read. In the future I am going to have to find a better way to have down time!

By the time this newsletter is printed we will have begun our Saturday night liturgies, completed Convention, elected a new Diocesan Bishop, celebrated Eileen O'Brien's journey to Africa, begun our Stewardship Campaign, launched "Blankets for Babies", and we will be preparing for our Harvest Festival.

This year the Harvest Festival will be held on the Saturday/Sunday before Thanksgiving. Once again we are asking everyone to bring non-perishable foods to church on Sunday, November 22nd to help stock our food pantry. The need always goes up in the winter months but this year will prove to be especially hard on many families.

There are so many exciting things happening at St. Andrew's at this point in time. For me witnessing the Holy Spirit working among us is most exciting. The response to the Saturday night liturgies has been most uplifting. The excitement among the people and their willingness to step up and help in any way needed has been wonderful. For me it has been a time of renewal and empowerment.

As we live in this world as seekers of Christ Jesus every day brings new opportunities and challenges. To seek: means being willing to step out of our comfort zones and to reach and stretch ourselves to new heights. To seek means stepping out in faith and trusting that God will lift us up on eagle wings. Together with one another and with Christ we can work wonders, make miracles happen, and soar on the wings of eagles.

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Diane

Christmas Memorials

Names for the Christmas flower and music memorial should be in the office by Monday, December 14, 2009. The cost of a poinsettia this year is \$10.00. You may list as many memorial names as you wish for one plant, or may buy more than one plant if desired. You may also donate flowers in thanksgiving for someone or make a contribution to the music program of the church. The plants are yours to take home after the Christmas Eve services. Checks for flowers should be made payable to "St. Andrew's" and music checks should also be made payable to "St. Andrew's." Please return your completed form to the church office.

Flowers in memory of _____

Flowers in thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____

Gifts of music in memory of _____

Given by _____



I would like to order _____ (#) poinsettias) @ \$10.00 each

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Autumn has bloomed with all of its changing colors and our school is also in full bloom. The children have settled in for the year and we are very excited about the school year to come.

October was filled with many exciting events for our families and their children. We had a Fall Fair for two weeks during our school day. The children brought in their favorite stuffed animal for our Animal Contest, Mom's sent in their best chocolate chip cookie recipe contest (all entrees were a winner) and we had Mrs. Gordon from Fantasy Faces, who came in and painted our faces. We played games of chance, made fall colored crayons, made and ate fried dough and dressed up for farmer day. We had our Halloween parties and our annual "Pumpkin Picking" at Mrs. Sayah's farm.

November will bring us to our Thanksgiving Feasts and getting ready for winter. We also will be having a donation drive in November for the Meriden Humane Society to help them feed and take care of the animals they have. If anyone would like to contribute please drop any donations of food, blankets, toys, snacks and/or litter to our Nursery School room. We thank you for any donations in advance.

Happy Autumn to you all. Peaceful Thanksgiving to you and your families!

ST. ANDREW'S PANTRY

Thank you to all who have donated canned goods, non-perishable food and monetary donations to The St. Andrew's Pantry.

Our next food distribution is scheduled for Saturday, November 21st, 2009, from 11 a.m. to Noon. We will try to include a few extra things in the bags for Thanksgiving. Your food donations can be dropped off at the office any day during the week or left in the narthex on Sundays. Along with the food collection we can use volunteers to organize and distribute the food. Please see Ted Coitrone if you would like to help out.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. & 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. - Coffee Hour

9:20 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. - Church School

Sunday, November 1, 2009

All Saints' Day

Lessons: Ecclesiastics 44:1-10,13-14

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-17

Matthew 5:1-12

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Kinkade Family, Michael McKennan & Walter E. Jacobson by Mr. & Mrs. John McKennan

The side altar flowers are given in loving memory of Matthew P. Campione, Christina Caruso Campione, Philip H. Scowen, and in celebration of Hillary Ann Smenton by Lee Campione.

The columbarium flowers are given in loving memory of Charles Snow by Jean Snow.

The Bread & Wine are given in loving memory of Henry T. Shaw by Edith Shaw

Altar Guild: Bea & Evan Greenwood, Cheryl Mitchell and Kurt Sporbert.

Chalice Administrators:

8 a.m. - Joe Franco

10 a.m. - Dan Hovey
Marty Zeiser

Lectors:

8 a.m. - Roger Roy
Carol Christoffers

10 a.m. - Peter Proto
Michelle Proto

Ushers:

8 a.m. - Ted Coitrone
Tim Granucci

10 a.m. - Bill Miksitz
Bruce Giannetti

Greeter : Tracey Struble

Acolytes:

10 a.m. - Rebecca Nowak
Andrew Gilmore
Bailey Hettrick
Anna Nowak

Sunday, November 8, 2009

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of George & Dorothy Church, John M. Lake & Emily Church by Allan Church & Lois Lake Church

The columbarium flowers are given in loving memory of Charles Snow by Jean Snow.

If someone would like to donate Bread & Wine for this date in loving memory of and/or celebration of a love one(s) please contact the church office.

Altar Guild: Bette DeRosa, Carolyn MacDuff, Marilyn Noyes, and Mary Lou Stewart

Chalice Administrators:

8 a.m. - Frank Ridley

10 a.m. - Karen Lombardi
Elaine Mills

Lectors:

8 a.m. - Winsome Donaldson
Frank Ridley

10 a.m. - Dan Hovey
Bette DeRosa
Jim Abrams

Ushers:

8 a.m. - Kathy Lombardi
Carolyn MacDuff

10 a.m. - Bette DeRosa
Kurt Sporbert

Greeter: Karen Zeiser

Acolytes:

10 a.m. - Savannah Hogan
Kiana LeBeau
Shealani LeBeau
Mitchell McEwen

SUNDAY SCHEDULE (continued)

Sunday, November 15, 2009

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Lessons: Daniel 12:1-4a[5-13]
Hebrews 10:L31-39
Mark 13:14-23

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Frank Randolph Corkin Sr., Frances Beebe Corkin and Frank Corkin, Jr. by Natalie Corkin.

If someone would like to donate Bread & Wine for this date in loving memory of and/or celebration of a love one(s) please contact the church office.

Altar Guild: Diane Amantea, Tracey Struble and Roberta & Larry Zeiser.

Chalice Administrators:

8 a.m. - Mary Lyons
10 a.m. - Tom Marshall
Susan Varanka

Lectors:

8 a.m. - Roberta Stocksdale
Roger Roy
10 a.m. - Lois Church
Tom Marshall
Allan Church

Ushers:

8 a.m. - Lauren & Roger Roy

10 a.m. - Bill Miksitz
Bruce Giannetti

Greeters : Ginny Gromala

Acolytes:

10 a.m. - Jason Marshall
Rebecca Nowak
Bailey Hettrick
Anna Nowak

Sunday, November 22, 2009

Last Sunday after Pentecost

Daniel 7:9-14
Revelation 1:1-8
John 18:33-37

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of George Jensen, Bruce Jensen, Oscar & Mary Jensen, Harold & Marion Donle, and Rosamond Cutler by Miriam Jensen.

The side altar flowers are given in loving memory of The Rev. William Penny and The Rev. Jack Parker by Deacon Diane.

The Bread & Wine are given in loving memory of Beverly Drost by Gail & Peter Drost.

Altar Guild: Nancy & Sandra Handley, Kathleen Lombardi and Mary Lyons.

Chalice Administrators:

8 a.m. - Mary Lou Stewart
10 a.m. - Marty Zeiser
Dan Hovey

Lectors:

8 a.m. - Ken & Kathy Felton
10 a.m. - Kathie Harris
Peter Piech
Elaine Mills

Ushers:

8 a.m. - Bea & Evan Greenwood

10 a.m.- Bette DeRosa
Kurt Sporbert

Greeter: Bette DeRosa

Acolytes:

10 a.m. - Peter Piech
Andrew Gilmore
Savannah Hogan
Justin McEwen

SUNDAY SCHEDULE (continued)

Sunday, November 29, 2009

The First Sunday of Advent

Lessons: Zechariah 14:4-9

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-31

If someone would like to donate flowers for this date in loving memory of and/or celebration of a love one(s) please contact the church office.

If someone would like to donate Bread & Wine for this date in loving memory of and/or celebration of a love one(s) please contact the church office.

Altar Guild: Karen Lombardi
Eileen O'Brien

Chalice Administrators:

8 a.m. - Evan Greenwood

10 a.m. - Karen Lombardi
Elaine Mills

Lectors:

8 a.m. - Carol Christoffers
Winsome Donaldson

10 a.m. - Lee Jones
Dan Hovey
Liz Rodie Jones

Ushers:

8 a.m. - David Lowe
Larry Zeiser

10 a.m. - Bruce Giannetti
Bill Miksitz

Greeter: Tracey Struble

Acolytes:

10 a.m. - Kiana LeBeau
Rebecca Nowak
Mitchell McEwen
Shealani LeBeau

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The next Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting will be held at St. Andrew's, Monday, November 9, 2009 @ 6:30 p.m. We invite everyone interested in joining us at our next meeting. Can't knit or crochet PLEASE join us, we can help you get started. Please call Pat @ 203-238-4227 for more info.

Thank you,
Pat Dorio

THANKSGIVING EUCHARIST

This year, our Thanksgiving Eucharist will be held on Wednesday evening, November 25th at 6:30 p.m.. Come and join us for a few quiet moments of worship before the hecticness of the holiday begins!

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed on the following days for the upcoming holidays:

**November 11th
November 26th & 27th
December 25th
January 1st**

Thank you & Happy Holidays from St. Andrew's Church office.

HARVEST FESTIVAL Sunday - November 22nd

On Sunday November 22nd we will be celebrating the bounty of God's gifts to us. We are asking everyone to bring something to donate to help stock our food pantry for the coming months. Non-perishable food is needed to help with our outreach programs. The need this year is exceptionally high. Please bring your food items to church on November 22nd and put them in the baskets to be presented as the offering. The items most needed at this time are tuna, canned fruit, pasta sauce and cereal.

Thank you

OUR PARISH FAMILY

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Doris Rohde
Heather Williams
- 3 Priscilla Greenwood
- 4 Marissa Van Hennick
- 5 Kevin Zimmer
- 6 Patricia LaFramboise
Jeffrey Massicotte, Jr.
Martin Piech
- 8 Matthew Curtiss
- 11 Lauren Goss
Sean Williams
- 12 Darius Bolden
- 13 Lois Barillaro
Clara Arnum
Anna Nowak
Tracey Struble
- 16 Karen Zeiser
- 17 Lawrence Laude
Erin Barton
Matthew Bailey
- 18 Leonard Anderson
Kellan Van Hennick
- 19 Robert Caggiano
- 21 Kelly Anderson
- 23 Claire Swanson
Kathie Harris
Sari Molesky
- 24 Zachary Lane
- 26 Ann Poniatowski
- 27 John D. McKennan
Tyler Bolden
- 28 Jodi Sullivan
Riley Maloney
John Poniatowski
- 29 Julian Church

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 29 Laurie & Bob Bennett
- 30 Lauren & Roger Roy