



Winter Issue 2010

The Reverend Father Calvin R. Griffin
Rector

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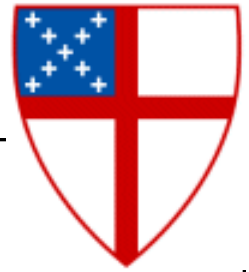
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ST. LUKE'S TIMES

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

By Tannie Smith, delivered November 14, 2010



STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Eternal God, we come before you today in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us. Help us to remember your generosity, and to thank you for every good gift and every perfect gift that we enjoy and for your faithfulness in times of adversity. Help us to remember your sustaining presence at every moment of discouragement. Just as you are always faithful to us, help us to remember our responsibility to be faithful to you. As we make decisions about how to use the many gifts we have received from you, guide us by your Holy Spirit to be good stewards so that we will make the best use of those gifts for the sake of your kingdom. In the strong and holy name of Jesus we pray. Amen

“Remember: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and, whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

In these challenging economic times, it is not uncommon for us to exercise more care with how we spend “our” money. Satan tempts us to look inwardly so that we’ll horde it, worrying about ourselves. But God’s children should have a different, brighter outlook.

We need to recognize that what we consider to be “our” resources are what God has already given to us. It is not ours – it is God’s. We are merely the managers, the stewards.

Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians that if we choose to sow sparingly, we should not expect to reap a fantastic return; quite the opposite. It is the true believer, the good manager, the faithful steward, who sows generously even in tough times, who will be rewarded with a bountiful harvest.

Maybe it is time for us to slow down, step back from the world’s enticements and re-focus our efforts on doing what God would have us do with only part of what God has so graciously given us.

Money is one of the things we think of most when we think of stewardship. Money is an important part of stewardship but as we know it goes much further than that. We are asked to honor the Lord with our wealth, with the first fruits of all our crops. This means we are to give to God before anything else: paying bills, food or entertainment. Oftentimes we pay everything, keep out enough money for play and household expenses, and God gets a portion of what is left. This is not first fruits – this is scraps given to God. We are to seek God first, not after we take care of ourselves. We need to come to the understanding that when we give to God first, everything else falls into place.

(Continued on page 3)

MISSION STATEMENT: *“The mission of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church is to spread the Word and share the love of God with all people.”*



Vestry Notes

During his visit with our congregation on November 21, 2010, Bishop Andrew Waldo met with the Vestry to talk about issues that were of interest to St. Luke's: church finances, growth, programs, and mission of the church.

The Annual Parochial Meeting was held on December 5, 2010. The meeting covered the following reports and elections:

- The report from the Rector;
- Commission and Organization Reports;
- The status of St. Luke's and its financial wellbeing;
- The election of Vestry members;
- The election of a Diocesan Delegate.

The following persons were elected to the Vestry:

- James Johnson
- Cynthia Goines
- Corine Kimpson-Wittington
- William Smith
- Rudy Canzater

Herman Hickman was elected Junior Warden.

Herbert Bynoe was elected as the Diocesan Delegate.



Keep up with church activities and events.

FROM THE FINANCE COMMISSION

Finance Commission begs your cooperation! We are asking that anyone who is not a member of the Finance Commission (Asst. treasurers for counting/deposit) to please reframe from entering the Treasurer's office after church service. If you have need to conduct financial business with the church of any kind after church, please contact Dr. Rudy Wise, Herbert Bynoe, Rudy Canzater or Annie Kelley.

Finance Commission requires all organizations having accounts with First Citizen Bank (as a part of the St. Luke's master account) to:

1. Count your own money
2. Fill out your deposit slips
3. Place monies in bag
4. Church counters will make copies of any checks
5. Deposits can be taken to the bank by the Finance Commission depositor.

The H2O Ministry

A new ministry will start at our church in 2011 with two yearly opportunities to give to the local community. The ministry will be called The H2O or The Help to Others Ministry. Each giving opportunity will last for a month with the first being in February and the second one in October. In February collections of old eye-glasses will be accepted for donation to the local Lions Club for distribution to persons in our community who can not afford the purchase of eyeglasses. The October drive will be for the collection of items to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House of Columbia. The Ronald McDonald House host families of children who are hospitalized for extended stay at Palmetto Richland Hospital.

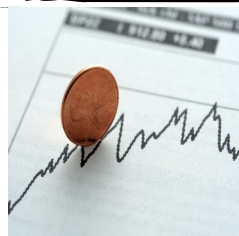
Submitted by Fred Stover

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

ST. LUKE'S FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET:

PROJECTED YEARLY

INCOME: \$214,200.00
EXPENSES: \$217,585.00



INCOME & EXPENSES

Effective 11/30/2010

INCOME: \$180,081.00
EXPENSES: \$192,042.00

(Continued from page 1)

When you give to your church, you are giving to God. The money given in the offering plates is used to provide a meeting place, support your priest, perhaps send out missionaries, print Gospel tracts, and keep the church building and assets well-maintained. The church members vote on a church budget, then the tithes and offerings are spent according to that budget.

It is interesting that no one would think of attending a football game at Benedict College or University of South Carolina without buying a ticket to help pay for providing the entertainment, yet some people think nothing of enjoying the blessings of the church without contributing their part to support the ministry.

I feel that tithing is probably the most accurate guide for giving, but no one needs to feel under a burden. The tithe is meant to be a blessing, not a straitjacket. But if you feel under pressure, it would be better for you to give perhaps one percent with joy than 10 percent under duress. Give the one percent and let God speak to your heart.

I would like to suggest a place to begin tithing – something, I plan to try – it's called "the 90 Day Tithing Challenge." Here's how it works. For the next 90 days, you commit to giving at least one-tenth of your income to the Lord. At the end of 90 days, you can either continue tithing or you can stop. Why not practice tithing for 90 days and see if God will not bless you. I'm not promising you more money or a new car or anything like that. I can't guarantee you'll get a raise or that all your bills will be paid. But maybe God will bless you beyond your expectations if you dare to take a step of faith. If at the end of the 90 days you don't like it, you feel pressure, you're going broke, and you don't think it works, then just stop and go back to whatever giving pattern you are following right now. So why not take the 90 Day Tithing Challenge? You have nothing to lose, and maybe everything to gain.

As you make a decision about how to support the work of your church in the coming year, please take time, examine your heart, pray about it, and ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance. Then remember what God has already done for you and make the choice to honor God with a cheerful financial pledge to the work of God's church.

It doesn't take faith to give out of one's abundance; it takes faith to stand up after you have been knocked down by the world and to continue to trust in the promises of God. Therefore, let us choose to sow bountifully and cheerfully, knowing that the funds we give will be used to do the work of the Lord.

LET US PRAY

O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom, I know that all I have received is from your hand. Gracious and loving God, you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us bringing your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts in Jesus' name. Amen.

Our Prayers are asked:

For Healing: Ed Bynum, Dorothy Hayes, Emerson Hazzard, Mildred Murray, Major Roberts, Fred Thompson, Talmadge Moore, Jackie Coles, Adell Adams, John Rumph, Helen Grogan, Carole Cooper, and Barbarel Blakely

For Our Young People Away From Home: Ebony Saxon, Ann Bingham Johnson, Patrick and Rebecca Cokley, Natalie Moore Fulton, Rudy Wise, Jr., Erika Johnson, Victoria Julian, Michael Turner, Justin Battiste, Russell Griffin, Cedric Johnson, Skye Robinson-Dunbar, and Jai Marshall; Jioni and Ashlei Palmer

For Our Loved Ones in Nursing Homes: Vivian Hampton, Lorraine Marshall, Ella Lenoir, and Charlotte Osbia

For Members of the Armed Forces: Chad Williams and Peter Utley

For Our Loved Ones at Home: Eddy Brown, Bernice Johnson, and Abram Coles

For Our Ministry: With many stars in their heavenly crowns this is our prayer for the parish of St. Luke's.



Generosity and Grace Abounds by Corliss Wise

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8, NIV)

As I read and reflect up on this scripture, it reminds me that Grace is sufficient and all that I have is all that I need. I chose this scripture to connect with what does generosity means?

Generosity means first from Miriam-Webster:

1 *a*: the quality or fact of being generous *b*: a generous act
2: ABUNDANCE <great *generosity* of spirit>

Another meaning of the word generosity is “grace” it is God’s good will, loving-kindness and favor. His grace, His good will is what keeps us. His favor strengthens us and causes us to increase. The wonderful thing is that He’s already extending that grace to you right now; all you have to do is open your heart and humbly receive it by faith. Notice in this verse that when He pours out His grace on you, you will have all that you need at all times...that’s living in abundance. And when you are living in abundance, you are equipped to pour out that goodness and blessing on those around you. Abundant grace leads to abundant living, and abundant living leads to abundant giving! (Joel Olsteen)

Now what does it mean to me? Generosity means giving of one self, your talent, your tithes, and time to God and your fellow man. As I continue to live this spiritual journey of life, I am growing more each day to have a closer **relationship** with God. For example, I have noticed that when I put God first, His blessings flow abundantly, in my marriage, in my family, and in my work. It has not always been easy, because, there was a time when I did the opposite, by following “me”, making choices that had no purpose, like not being “fiscal” responsible, with finances. That caused me to become enslaved to debt. I was in the world, but as I grew in spiritual maturity, God turned those non-purposeful things around for me to have a more purposeful life.

In summary, you know that spiritual song, **Amazing Grace?** Well, that second stanza: **“I Was Blind But Now I See,”** has a very literal meaning for me today. Continually, the last verse of our National Negro An-

them, **“Lift Every Voice and Sing,”** validates everything for me, as well, when it says; Drunk of the wine of the World. A metaphor of how “we” all can get caught up in man’s world.

Lastly, over the years, through my mother and through my husband, I have witnessed firsthand examples of generosity. My mom has been blessed by God’s sweet spirit. She is the same each and every day. For example, on Sundays during the Peace, mom, will “work” the church, by embracing everyone around her pew with a hug. As she gracefully age (86 years young), I notice she is sweeter each day. As I watch her grow spiritually, I thank God for her for blessing me with her as my mother. Another full proof example of mom’s sweet spirit, occurred in Charlotte at Chick-fil-A, her favorite place to eat. We were standing in line when a young lady, walked up to us and asked her if she could just hug mom, because she saw wisdom in her silver hair and felt a sweet kind spirit in mom’s presence and the young lady said to mom, “I hope to have that spirit rub off on me.” To me that was powerful, and as I reflect back that was God-like! But that’s mom!

Now, my Rudolph, (“Doc”) as we affectionately call him. He shows generosity daily with his immediate and extended families, as well, as his patients, and his home church (Mt. Pisgah) and St. Luke’s. He truly gives of his time (volunteering as Finance Chair), his talent (as a physician) and through tithing-and in all of that he does he is always so humble. I love and admire him for that and I am blessed by his generous heart. Because he is so modest, and probably not like me saying this, has so often shared with me and Rudy, II, that you do not have to boast or brag in whatever you do in life, because your actions will speak volumes. He refers to the spiritual song of his beloved mother loved so well, **“Let The Work I’ve Done Speak For Me.”** Because remember, it is not who you are it is whose you are and anything you do let it come from the heart because you are doing it for the Glory of God!

In closing, generosity means giving of yourself, your talent (whatever that may be), and your time with God and your fellowman. In Miriam-Webster, generosity means “being generous, a generous act, and abundance (great generosity of spirit).

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8, NIV)

Organ Committee Kick-Off!

First, let's acknowledge **Mrs. Beatrice McDuffie**, our former chair of the Organ Committee (2007-2010), who resigned as chair due to illness. **Thank you Bea!**

Hat's off to the entire Organ Committee and a special "Thank-you" to **Annie Kelley and Rudy Canzater** for helping to raise \$56,000.00 to-date towards the Allen-Organ!

When the Organ Committee was resurrected in May 2010, we asked Annie and Rudy to join forces to help raise monies for the organ. And without any qualms, they agreed. We had our Organ Kick-off during Fellowship, (Sunday, June 2010). We appealed to our parishioners by asking them to pledge. And, our parishioners answered our plea! Next, we sponsored two day trips to Cherokee, North Carolina, and Charleston, South Carolina (African American Gullah Tour) which were very successful. Continually, Desmond Goines sponsored a "BBQ" and he contributed proceeds to the organ fund. Then, our Men's Club joined forces in inviting us to sell tickets for their annual Fish-Fry, and in turn donated all proceeds. Everyone has contributed in many ways; and that shows that our working together towards a common goal, we can achieve any goal. And, our goal is to purchase the Allen-Organ!

Now, it's not over until the "fat-lady" sings, so **Come one...Come all to the...**

"LOST TREASURE" FLEA MARKET:

What: A Flea Market and Hot Dog Sale

When: Saturday, March 5, 2011

Where: O'Neal Center Gymnasium

How: Bring Your "Clean" Recycled items of furniture, clothes, and house wares...

Cost: All Proceeds donated to the Organ-Fund

Final Note: The organ committee will be accepting all recycled clean items
on Sunday, February 27, 2011.

St. Luke's parishioners, friends, and neighbors, see you on March 5th, 2011.

Our Sincere Thanks,
St. Luke's Organ Committee

NAME THAT HYMN

1. Which hymn features the lyric, "What more can He say than to you He hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?"

- He Hideth My Soul
- Trust and Obey
- How Firm a Foundation
- Standing on the Promises

2. This hymn features the lyric, "When peace like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows flow."

- Blessed Assurance
- Amazing Grace
- My Faith Looks Up To Thee
- It Is Well With My Soul

3. This hymn features the lyric, "This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long."

- Blessed Assurance
- Nearer, My God, to Thee
- My Jesus, I Love Thee
- Amazing Grace

4. This hymn contains the lyric, "All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give."

- Take My Life, and Let It Be
- I Surrender All
- Have Thine Own Way, Lord
- Is Your All on the Alter?

Submitted by Leonard Gordan

Answers: 1. How Firm a Foundation, 2. It Is Well With My Soul, 3. Blessed Assurance, 4. I Surrender All.



Christmas

at

St. Luke's

1300 Pine Street, Columbia, South Carolina

Friday, December 24, 2010

(Christmas Eve)

10:30 PM Sing-Along
with The St. Luke's Church Choir

11:00 PM The Festival Christ Mass

12:30 AM Christmas Repast – Parish Hall

Sunday, December 26, 2010

Christmas I – 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Low Mass)

Sunday, January 02, 2011

Christmas II – 10:00 AM Choral Eucharist

December 2010

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2011

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2011

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

- 1 Wednesday Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- 2 St. Luke's Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 am**
- 5 ECW Meeting, 12 noon**
- 14 Vestry Meeting, 6:00 pm**
- 16 St. Luke's Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 am**
- 18 Feeding Ministry, 12 noon**
- 24 Festival Christ Mass**
- Christmas Caroling, 10:30 pm**
- Christ Mass, 11:00 pm**
- Christmas Repast, 12 midnight**

- 2 ECW Meeting, 12 noon**
- 5 Wednesday Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- 6 St. Luke's Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 am**
- 18 Vestry Meeting, 6:00 pm**
- 19 Men's Club Meeting, 7:00 pm**
- 22 Feeding Ministry, 12 noon**
- 20 St. Luke's Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 am**

- 2 Wednesday Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- 3 St. Luke's Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 am**
- 6 ECW Meeting, 12 noon**
- 15 Vestry Meeting, 6:00 pm**
- 17 St. Luke's Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 am**
- 26 Feeding Ministry, 12 noon**



**2010 COFFEE &
FELLOWSHIP
HOUR**

December 2010

5th St. Luke's Annual Meeting
12th Patricia Cokley
19th Daughters of the King
26th Gwen Meadows &
Gerald Martin

January 2011

2nd Available
9th Available
16th Available
23th Audrey Smith &
Cynthia Goines
30th Available

February 2011

6th Available
13th Available
20th Available
27rd Heritage Food Festival

March 2011

6th Available
13th Available
20th Available
27th Available

The Commission on Fellowship would like to thank everyone for their support in sponsoring fellowship for 2010. The 2011 calendar is ready and dates are available. Please host a fellowship Sunday for your birthday, anniversary or In Thanksgiving for many Blessings. Thank you.

Submitted by Cynthia Goines

TITUS 2:11-15

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

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