

OCTOBER 2008

Taking the Pledge

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. —2 Corinthians 9:7

Dear Friends in Christ:

Autumn is without doubt my favorite time of the year. Its color, weather, scents, and sounds (like the sound of dry leaves crunching under the wheels of my bicycle) delight me. For all my youth and up through seminary, autumn meant a brief but joyous season of mulled cider, bonfires, football, Halloween, and beautiful leaves etched against bright blue skies. Then came ordination.

When I was ordained, autumn stopped being such a beautiful season and became one thing: The Season of the Pledge Drive. Suddenly, all of fall became consumed with the thought that somehow we had to package the budget in such a way that people would give to it. That meant every year a new "gimmick," a new "drive." It quickly became a drudgery, seasoned with the taint of pressure tactics to "close the deal" each November.

Over the last years, though, I have re-evaluated my approach to autumn. Here's how I did it:

- God has always seen us through difficult times. Why do I keep being afraid that He won't this year?
- The parish budget is not a test of my personal validity, nor is it a "stick'em up" of the faithful: it is a list of priorities for the parish and a guide for how we do ministry through the use of our financial resources... just like my personal budget!
- God loves a cheerful giver: my cheerfulness has been mighty low at times

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SIHN Host Week Thank-Yous

During our Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network Host Week at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, we served six adults and seven children. Two of the families had single moms. Two of the families (one with five children!) had both parents in the family unit. We concocted our own barbecue sauce one night because we didn't have any in the fridge, and we created a wonderful coffee drink with chocolate and caramel another night! The kids rode tricycles and roller skates in the gym. Thanks to all — it was a great week! —Paula Hartwig

Evening Hosts:

- Monday - Janet Taylor
- Wednesday - Carole Ann Crateau
- Friday - Kay Myklebust

Evening Meals:

- Monday - Ruth Speaker
- Wednesday - Matt & Debbie Markee
- Friday - Jeannie Reutter

(As usual, the meals were yummy!!! Since I don't cook, I think the folks who cook are amazing!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

Overnight Hosts:

- Monday - Caroline Gilbert / Russ Raney
- Wednesday - Paula Hartwig / Steve C.
- Friday - Paula Hartwig / David Tatman

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through the years; my gift has not always been acceptable to God. God isn't really interested in money from grumps. It is time to change that.

The parish budget for St. Timothy's in 2009 will look rather different. There will still be income and expenditures, of course. But this time, the expenditures will be organized according to the various Commissions. Each Commission is being asked to submit a prioritized list of budget requests, along with its own Mission Statement (applying the Parish's Mission Statement to its own work) and a rationale for its budget requests. What you as the parish pledge to is that vision of mission and ministry brought to us by the Commissions. After the pledge drive, the Vestry will square the expected income with that vision. Only then will the Vestry formally adopt the budget and present it at the Annual Meeting.

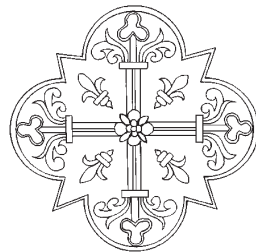
All of this means that our budget is becoming mission-based. It is not simply a replication of last year's budget, adjusted for inflation. While some of it is mandated or fixed, much of it will be based on what members of this parish believe we are called to be about in mission and service... through the Commissions and through your pledge response.

So, it is time to take the pledge, and to do so cheerfully and with gratitude. It is not a mysterious process, cloaked in secrecy. It is open for your inspection and your input. Mostly, though, it is an opportunity for each of us to "make up our mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion" to give of our resources towards the renewal of this parish and the extension of the Kingdom of God into our neighborhood, our state, and the world.

Faithfully (and with prayers for a truly enjoyable autumn!),



Fr. Brandon Lee Filbert



**Parish Mission Statement:** We gather to experience the Holy Trinity through Scripture, worship, study, and fellowship. Receiving and reflecting God's love and grace, we are sent out to love and serve our neighbor, see the Christ in others, and share the Gospel by the example of our everyday lives.

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communication. These are clearly highly-valued areas in our common life. I am also aware of the need to pursue new avenues in two areas: mission to our local community (we are currently working on a possible major development in this area) and a renewed commitment to youth ministry. Please know that these issues are actively being studied by members of the parish at this time.

I hope to continue having an annual forum for considering the state of our common life and ministry. I wish to thank the members of the Transition Committee for working through the year to bring us this far, and for helping us to have effective measurement tools so that we can assess our stewardship of the vocation Christ has given us to build up His Church to His Glory and the benefit of the world for which He died and rose again.

—BLF+

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## Steward of the Month

Our October Steward is John Hanson, a long-time member of St. Timothy's who was confirmed here in 1972. He has been a faithful acolyte for many years.



He utilizes his professional horticultural skills at St. Timothy's by pruning the greenery. Cleaning out the gutters is also a greatly-appreciated service. His knowledge of flowers enhances the hikes he takes with our hiking group. Discussions about various wild flowers informative while offering a rest for the less-fit hikers.

John coordinates our outreach ministry of participating with other churches in a Soup Kitchen on Sunday afternoons, 5 times a year. John has organized our part since the beginning of the program.

On an individual level, John provides transportation for parishioners unable to drive. John is an outstanding role model of stewardship on many levels: in the community, in the parish as a whole, with parish groups, and as an individual.

—The Stewardship Commission

## One Year On...

### My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Well, a year has passed since I formally arrived as Rector at St. Timothy's. You have been extraordinarily gracious and helpful to me and to my family during this year. We have worked hard together to live out the theme for this year's efforts: "New Beginnings Built on Solid Foundations." It has been challenging at times, of course, but it has also been joyful, fulfilling, fun, and one of the most blessed seasons in my life.

When I arrived, one of my goals was to establish a Transition Committee to work with me on assessing how the first year of our shared ministry was progressing as it related both to my own personal effectiveness and our mutual advance on the key issues brought up in the Parish Profile process during the interim period. Mary Raney very kindly agreed to chair the Transition Committee, and together with other members of the parish appointed to this work by the Vestry, developed a survey which then went out in the August Tidings. A large enough portion of the parish has responded to this survey for me to study the results and draw some "one year on" conclusions. I'm going to confine my comments to those issues that pertain particularly to my ministry, as the Transition Committee will be making its own report

First of all, I am thankful for your many kind words of support, compliment, and encouragement. The results seem to show that, all-in-all, we have a good fit as a team in ministry.

Secondly, a few concerns. A few of you noted that we are still finding our feet about life together, and that is true. The Sunday liturgy has, at times, gone a bit long – I am working on trying to pack a little less into the sermon so that it doesn't seem quite so encyclopedic! Also, I must confess I have not met my visitation goals for the year. I continue to have a regular visitation schedule, but it has not been as comprehensive as I would have hoped.

I am learning some important things from this survey. One of them is the need for continued emphasis on transparency in decision-making and effective two-way

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## Work Party

Oct. 4

9 AM - 3 PM

Volunteers are needed for staining, painting, weeding, pruning, spreading bark dust, and getting the grounds and church good and ready for winter. Bring a sack lunch, work gloves, pruners, shovels for bark, etc. Thanks! —Denis Williamson



## Photo Directory

The Parish Life and Newcomer Commissions are planning a parish directory with photographs. Watch for details about photo days, etc. in the coming months.



You are cordially invited to

## A Stewardship Dinner

Join us for an evening of food, wine, & a new look at stewardship,  
Friday, October 25th at 6:00 PM  
in the parish hall!

Please cut this out and return it to the marked box in the narthex.

☆ \_\_\_\_\_ (names) plans to attend

☆ Our main course preference(s) are chicken  pork tenderloin

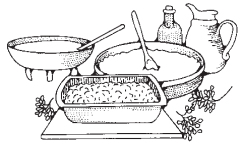
☆ We plan to bring a (choose one) side  salad  dessert  to share

# October Special Events



**Saturday, Oct. 4: Work Party, 9 am - 3 pm**  
Staining, painting, weeding, pruning,  
bark-dust-spreading — Bring tools!

**Saturday, Oct 4: St. Francis Day, 5 pm**  
Blessing of the Animals — all pets  
welcome! Bring them in carriers if they  
might be stressed by other animals.



**Saturday, Oct. 4: Grand Chaburah, 6 pm**  
Bring a potluck dish and your datebook;  
we will be setting our schedules.

**Saturday, Oct. 25: Stewardship Dinner, 6 pm**  
RSVP on the reservation slip on page 3  
or fill out a slip in the narthex. Choose  
your entree and potluck offering.



**Sunday, Oct. 26: All Saints/All Souls**  
Interage Activity, 9 am (no Church School  
classes) Come and celebrate the season!

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housing. God provided our two teams an eye opening experience of serving Jesus, making us humble and grateful. God has put a safe roof over the heads of these parents and their children. He has provided and answered prayer in ways we didn't even imagine.

We traveled far but ended up close to these families and each other. We have had moments crying but have laughed a lot and had much fun. We have seen the ugliness of poverty but also stood in wonder at the beauty of God's goodness and creation. Our Ensenada group was made up of people of all different ages and personalities, but everyone got along famously and enjoyed the company of one another. Most of did not speak Spanish, but we communicated with these family members in spite of our differences. We started out unsure if the experience would be OK, and we came back certain that is was all good. We "gave up" a week of summer or vacation time and returned saying we would gladly do it again. We worked hard, but it wasn't difficult. We served, but we have come home knowing we are the ones who have been blessed. Some house building happened in Ensenada but much more than that. Above all, we have seen Jesus and experienced the joy of following Him.



*"I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we did these things for you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"* —Matt 25

God is indeed great. God is good. All praise to our awesome God.

The YAC and Ensenada Team are deeply humbled and grateful to the Parish and other supporters who have so generously given their time, prayer, finances, and gifts that made this mission possible.

Thank you for blessing us.

— Shep Earl  
YAC Mentor & Trip Coordinator

## Mission Trip August 2008

Six young people took 11 “more mature” people down to Ensenada, Mexico for a week. In four days, we built two small, safe, solid houses for two Mexican families who were living in extremely impoverished conditions. The building aspect of this mission was a big part of what was going on; however, that was NOT only part of the significant things that happened in 6 short days.

Much more has happened beyond constructing two modest 16 foot by 20 foot single story houses. This was our first time doing a mission outside the U.S. and the first time we have ever worked along side with our host organization, YUGO Ministries. We didn't know what to expect. YUGO turned out to be a really solid and “with it” organization. The dorms were pretty comfortable, the meals were not just good but great, the build system was spot on, and the YUGO staff was fabulous. God provided for us; it exceeded our expectations.

Our Parish, with this mission endeavor, has been extremely supportive in prayer though out and has been very generous in the financial backing given. Over \$9,000 was raised for houses and gifts for our two families in Mexico. Over \$12,000 was given to cover the expense of travel and lodging. God has moved us to openness and generosity. He has provided beyond what we thought was possible.

Our two teams has come along side the Rodriquez Martinez and Nava Magdaleno families; in a short 5 days we have come to know and love these people. We have given the gift of a solid house. Both of these families had made the commitment and sacrifice to buy land but were living in dirt floor dwellings made of crates, blankets, and tarps.



Both family members are doing farm labor. For example, Pedro is married to Gloria (32 years married!): they have five daughters (two with husbands and not living with them). They moved to Ensenada from Sonora to find work and live in a milder climate. Pedro, 52 years old, takes a 30 min. bus ride to a large vegetable farm and works 12 hours a day, six days a week. He earns about \$12 a day. This is very typical situation in Mexico. Food expenses over all are not much less than what we have here in the States. Your kindness and God at work has provided these two families safe decent

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## \$\$\$\$\$ from the Treasurer

General Fund pledge contributions through August: \$122,165 out of \$123,333 pledged, which is 99% of total amount pledged for this time period.

Building Fund pledge contributions for same period: \$17,919 out of \$18,848 pledged, which is 95% of total pledged for this time period.

Total operating income through August: \$145,470 out of \$148,800 budgeted for this time period (98%).

Total expenses through August: \$143,731 out of \$152,666 budgeted for this time period.

While the numbers tell a great story, we must not forget that we started the year with a \$5,800 deficit. If we continue to keep spending down, and income the same or higher, we should be okay. But it depends on everyone doing their part!

Other contributions of note:

St. Stephens Fund: The response to our appeal has been overwhelming. Through July and August, we received over \$6,500 in offerings! (And over \$1,000 more the first two weeks of September!)

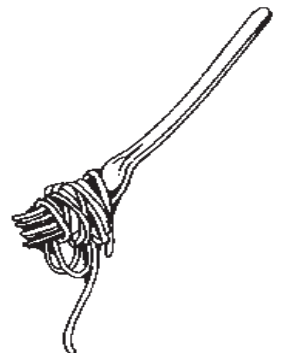
Your humble bean counter,  
Nancy Herrin



## Fork Shortage

**We are running short of dinner forks** in the parish hall kitchen. Do you have some odd forks that you can spare? Or could you search out a few at a factory outlet, antique, or thrift store?

Since none of our flatware matches, any stainless pattern will do. Bring them to the collection box in the narthex. Thanks!



OCTOBER		Remigius 1 of Rheims Pastoral Care Subcommittee 7 pm Inquirers' Class 7 pm		2	3	Francis 4 of Assisi Work Party 9-3 Blessing of Animals 5 pm Grand Chaburah 6	
		Pent. XXI 5 8 am HE 9 am CS 10 am HE	William 6 Tyndale	7	8	Robert 9 Grosseteste	10
Pent. XXII 12 8 am HE 9 am CS 10 am HE		13	Samuel 14 Isaac Schere- schewsky 10 am HE	Teresa of 15 Avila Tidings Deadline Inquirers' Class, 7 pm	Hugh 16 Latimer, Nich- olas Ridley, & Thomas Cranmer ESL Tutoring	Ignatius 17 of Antioch	St. Luke 18
Pent. XXIII 19 8 am HE 9 am CS 10 am HE Choir		20	21	22	St. James 23 of Jerusalem	24	25
Ann. of Ded. 26 8 am HE 9 am Interage 10 am HE Choir		27	St. Simon 28 & St. Jude 10 am HE	29 James Hannington & Companions Inquirers' Class 7 pm	30	All 31 Hallows' Eve	All Nov. 1 Saints' Day All Saints/ All Souls Potluck & Party 5 pm

✦ Day of special devotion to be observed by special acts of discipline and self-denial.

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Peggy Goforth	13 Mary Dickinson Sandy Noble	18 Graeme Bandfield
7 Tom Lawrence	14 Merryn Grae	22 Haley Herrin
8 Jocelyn Cartwright Kay Myklebust		23 Peter Rector
		28 Anne Creadick

## Calendar Notes for October

**Wednesday, Oct. 1:** Inquirers' Class & Living in the Kingdom, 7 PM  
Pastoral Care Subcommittee, 7 PM



**Saturday, Oct. 4:** Work Party, 9 - 3 — bring tools for painting & bark spreading  
Blessing of Animals, 5 PM— bring your pet  
Grand Chaburah Potluck, 6 PM— Bring a dish to share

**Saturday, Oct. 11:** Convocation, 10 AM at Prince of Peace

**Wednesday, Oct. 15:** Deadline for November Tidings



**Sunday, Oct. 19:** Choir Rehearsals begin

**Saturday, Oct. 25:** Stewardship Dinner: RSVP with the reservation slip  
on page 3 of this issue or from the narthex table!

**Sunday, Oct. 26:** Anniversary of the Dedication  
Interage Activity for All Saints/All Souls, 9 AM



**Saturday, Nov. 1:** All Saints-All Souls Family Potluck & Party, 5 PM  
Set your clocks back tonight!

All Saints' Day



All Saints-All Souls Family Potluck & Party

Saturday, Nov. 1

5 PM

Short Liturgy · Potluck · Old-fashioned Games

Bring a potluck dish!