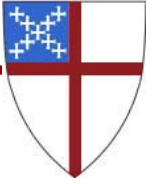




# St. Augustine's in-the-Woods

The Episcopal Church serving Whidbey Island  
A Greening Community



## *the* *Light*

MARCH 2011



**Rev. Nigel Taber-Hamilton, Rector**  
**Rev. William Burnett, Rector Emeritus**  
**Rev. William Seth Adams, Priest Associate**  
**Rev. M. Fletcher Davis, Priest Associate**  
**Rev. Amy Donohue-Adams, Priest Associate**  
**Rev. Julie Bird, Deacon**

## Staff

Annie Deacon, Director of Christian Education  
Loretta Martin, Office Administrator  
Marion Anderson, Director of Music  
Kelly Diefert, Janitor  
Harry Anderson, Senior Warden  
Margaret Schultz, Junior Warden  
Sherm Wortman, Interim Deputy Treasurer  
Marv Idso, Interim Treasurer  
Wendy Close, Parish Nurse  
Diana Klein, Vestry Clerk  
Loretta Martin, Newsletter Editor  
Liz Kershaw, Altar Guild Directress  
Maryann Speir, ECW President

## Worship Leaders

Beverly Babson  
R. Bruce Campbell  
Bill Carruthers  
David McClellan, EFSJ  
Anne Pringle  
Richard Tussey, EFSJ  
John Watson  
Connie Williams  
Tom Williams  
Sherman Wortman  
Judith P. Yeakel

## Contact St Augustine's:

P.O. Box 11  
5217 So. Honeymoon Bay Road  
Freeland, WA 98249-0011  
**phone:** (360) 331-4887  
**email:** [staugus@whidbey.com](mailto:staugus@whidbey.com)  
**web site:** [www.staugustinesepiscopalchurch.org](http://www.staugustinesepiscopalchurch.org)



## *St. Augustine's Services*

### **SUNDAY**

8:00 am Eucharist  
followed by coffee and Forums

10:30 am Eucharist  
with music, church school & child care  
followed by coffee hour

### **MONDAY**

5:30 pm Solemn Evensong  
(with incense)

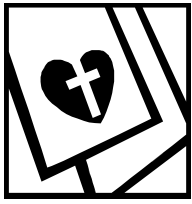
### **WEDNESDAY**

10:00 am Eucharist and Holy Unction

*For additional activities please see "calendar" listings in this newsletter.*



As the people of  
St. Augustine's, our mission  
is to worship God, witnessing  
to Jesus Christ by serving the  
community and the world in  
which we live, all through the  
power of the Holy Spirit.



# FROM THE RECTOR

## An invitation to a holy Lent

In the cycle of our Church year we're about to embark on the Journey that is Lent. On March 9, we gather at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to mark the beginning of that journey as the ashes created by burning the now-dried 2010 Palm Sunday palm fronds are used to mark our foreheads with the sign of the cross.

It's a powerful reminder of our mortality, underscored by the words used as ashes are imposed: "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return". There's both challenge and joy in those words. We're reminded of the transitory nature of all life but especially of our own, and we're reminded that, like the Church's year, all creation cycles from birth through life to death and back to the beginning again – that resurrection is at the very heart of creation.

That's brought home for me in the Great Vigil of Easter, and particularly in the renewal of baptismal vows that lies at the heart of that celebration. Paul's language that we must be buried with Christ so that we can be raised with Christ echo both ends of our Lenten observance – from the death that ashes portend to the new life that baptism promises.

In this sense, all of life is encompassed and symbolized by the Lent – Holy Week – Resurrection cycle.

It's easy to think of Lent as a necessary evil – we have to get through it to arrive at Easter. But in reality the only "evil" is if we were to try and deny the reality of Lent because the reality of Lent is the reality of life.

It's a time to "get real" therefore. Lent provides us with an opportunity few take advantage of: to take stock of our lives and to make an intentional effort to "get right" with God – and, by extension, with each other and with ourselves.

The Church's invitation in this season is therefore right on target: that we enter into "an observance of a holy lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and

meditating on God's holy word." (BCP p.265).

Much is said, and more joked about, with regard to the discipline of Lent. As someone joked, "I'm giving up chocolate for Lent!" As a "Choc-a-holic" myself I'm entirely sympathetic to the fact that this may indeed fall into the category of "fasting and self-denial"! But our faith asks more of us than simply to 'give something up' – even if the 'something' is pretty important to us.

Lent really asks us to 'take something on'. To adopt a practice throughout the Lenten season that challenges us to be reflective of what's going on in our lives and how we might re-orient ourselves in life-giving ways that enhance our relationships with God and with each other.

One way of doing this would be to take on a new prayer discipline. For example, we have a wonderful sung evensong service on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. (don't come if incense bothers you!).

Whatever you decide, may your Lenten discipline be blessed with God's presence as we journey toward the greatest celebration of our lives: to the day and season of resurrection.

Grace and peace to you.

Nigel

## March



From our precarious meteorological perch on Whidbey Island it's difficult to say if this March will arrive as a lion and depart as a lamb. However, we are confident that our Adult Forum array for March will be at least lion-hearted throughout. We will continue our new DVD series on Jesus and the Gospels with Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson. This series will be presented on 3 of the 4 Sundays of the month. On the second Sunday we will have a special, yet traditional presentation by Elizabeth Davis, our esteemed environmental advocate, on the current environmental legislative initiatives before the state legislature in Olympia.

Specific forum dates, subject matter, and presenters are provided below:

**6 March - The Starting Point-The Resurrection Experience.** Apart from brief allusions to Jesus and earliest Christianity in Greco-Roman and Jewish sources, everything we know about Jesus comes from Christian sources. That is, from people who regard Jesus as far more than another historical figure. This presentation takes us from the starting point for engaging Jesus then and now with the distinctive Christian understanding of the Resurrection. The Gospels are products of the post-resurrection reflection of Jesus. What is the nature of the experience and conviction called the Resurrection and how does it help select and shape what is remembered about Jesus? Ted Brookes presents.

**13 March - Environmental Legislative Initiatives.** Elizabeth Davis will provide a comprehensive briefing on the various environmental proposals before the Washington State legislature during the current session. She will discuss the efficacy of each and indicate the likelihood of specific initiatives gaining passage and subsequent funding support. Unfortunately, last years' efforts achieved mix results at best. Ted Brookes hosts.

**20 March - The Matrix-Symbolic World of Greek and Jew.** Both Jesus and the Gospels arose in the 1st century Mediterranean world in which 4 elements mixed and interacted: the deep cultural patterns of the Mediterranean, the ideals and realities of Greek civilization, the governance of Rome, and the religion of Israel. Each of these factors is complex in itself, and the interactions among them are deserving of extensive analysis. This presentation serves only to lay out the basics and remind Gospel readers of the rich cultural texture found in these holy literary compositions. Ted Brookes presents.

**27 March - Parallels-Stories of Greek and Jewish Heroes.** Jesus was not the only hero about whom stories were told in Greco-Roman and Jewish cultures. This lecture provides a context for approaching the distinctive character of the Christian Gospels through a survey of stories told about other significant figures. These include shorter tales and longer narratives about great historical figures. Special attention is given to the "Gospel" written by Philostratus, *The Life of Apollonius of Tyana*. This composition most resembles the Christian Gospels, but also demonstrates how distinctive their perspective. Ted Brookes presents.



## March MSO

### All Souls in Lower 9th of New Orleans

All Souls Episcopal mission, has a special connection with St. Augustine's. This connection was established during a Diocesan work mission to New Orleans organized by Diana Kline. Eight St. Augustine parishioners and three others with family connections to St. Augustine's took part in the March 2009 work mission. The work mission began with a celebration of Eucharist at All Souls Episcopal mission. The worship at All Souls was an uplifting spiritual event - a major highlight of the NOLA work mission. Eucharist at All Souls was followed by a tour of the Lower Ninth Ward organized by the congregation. In addition to the physical tour, "Smitty," a church member, provided an excellent seminar on the African American history, sociology and politics of the Lower Ninth.

All Souls, with a predominately African American congregation, was established in 2006 as an outgrowth of post-Katrina assistance to people in the Lower Ninth. The congregation initially met in an auto repair garage. The congregation now occupies an abandoned Walgreen's drugstore and is affectionately referred to as "St. Walgreens". All Souls carries the Gospel to their community through a wide range of social outreach which includes a computer lab and tutoring for middle and high school students, repairing nine houses, holding a community Saturday market, and providing classical musical training.



The Reverend Lonell Wright, vicar of All Souls, described his congregations current activities.

**"Tutoring program-** We provide tutoring for students from age 4 or five through high school. We begin by providing a snack. We then assist with homework. This is followed by tutoring in reading, math or language arts. We generally end with a spelling bee of some sort. The program runs for two hours two evenings per week (generally Tuesday and Thursdays). Our church van picks them up and delivers them back home (most do not have cars)."

**"Music Program-** A Saturday morning program (9 - 12), held at the Church in which children receive instruction in voice, percussion guitar and string instruments. We have had recorder

training as well. We also have musical ensembles provide a program a few times during the year. We also provide an opportunity to attend symphony rehearsals." **"Rebuild / Restore -** We assist families to rebuild their homes by providing volunteers and expertise including architecture services. We also, sometimes provide drywall and other donated building supplies to help rebuild their homes and lives."

The worship and education experience obtained through the All Souls visitation was a transforming experience. We would like to maintain this special relation with All Souls. MSO is one way in which St. Augustine's can help the vital outreach of All Souls and while being enriched by a relationship with All Souls.



## *The Altar Guild*

*submitted by Rev. Nigel Taber-Hamilton*



Early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of Luke's History of Jesus and the Church (those two parts being his Gospel, which could be called "The Acts of Jesus", and the Acts of the Apostles) he records the Twelve – Jesus' inner group – as saying that "waiting on tables" was, for them, an incomplete response to the transforming experience of Jesus' resurrection.

At the same time it wasn't an irrelevant focus; far from it. Their very realization of its importance led them to designate particular persons to provide that servant ministry, and to designate particular people to fulfill those functions.

A meal, and service – two very biblical things that happen every Sunday at St. Augustine's. We see most of the service part: the priest, the chalice bearers, the acolytes, the lectors, the ushers, and so on.

But there's one part we almost never see – or even know about – unless there's a problem! That's the work – the ministry – of the Altar Guild.

If you go on the web and put the phrase "Altar Guild" into a search engine like Google – and do it in inverted commas so that it will only find that phrase, rather than looking for "altar" and "guild" as separate searches – you get (about!) 520,000 responses! And pretty much all of them seem to be from Episcopal Churches!

There's a constant theme that runs through all the "Altar Guild" web-pages, with the same words being used over and over again.

They all indicate that it takes a special sort of person to be involved in Altar Guild – someone who doesn't need to be in the lime-light, to be seen as doing something important while they're doing something important. Someone who's willing to make a commitment and follow through on a regular basis – to be reliable and dependable. Someone who has good attention to detail, is caring but organized – who is, above all dedicated to what they're doing.

That's all very important because this is a very important ministry. To quote from the introduction to our Altar Guild Manual:

*"The ministry of the Altar Guild is central to the sacramental ministry of the parish. In particular, the Guild, as it performs its ministry, is participating in the process of creating the "sacred space" in which worship can happen. This careful preparation for the services of the Church, and its concurrent clean up, is a wonderful gift by Altar Guild members – an intentional act of stewardship - that helps to create a seamless and engaging worship experience for all the people who worship"*

*St. Augustine's-in-the-woods Episcopal Church, Freeland WA*

Like any theatrical production – and a worship service is (at least in part) a theatrical production – planning, preparation and stage management are crucial to the quality of what happens in public view.



The absence of a piece of scenery, or its misplacement, distracts from the overall experience of the play. Consequently, the true measure of success in the Altar Guild's ministry is the extent to which no one notices it. When the altar is set, the vestments laid out, the various vessels in their places, the books marked, the flowers arranged – when all that is part of the preparation is finished and done in good order – they all become vehicles through which people worship. Altar Guild members have done their best work when they have allowed the results of their labors in worship preparation to be transparent, so that the congregation sees through that work to that beyond it but which underpins it – they see only the ebb and flow of worship and are enabled to engage more deeply with it because there's nothing to distract them.

The congregational experience of these preparations allows the service to move forward smoothly; it allows the congregation to be drawn in to the experience of worship. So when the deepening experience of preparation is added to the other, more obvious experiences of worship – hearing, listening, singing, repeating, touching, praying, sharing, eating - worshipers are moved to a new place. They will not notice the components that make it all up, but they will have experienced the transforming change that comes when everything works together and we find ourselves standing in Sacred Space and know that God is present.

We have all experienced this moment at some time or another. It may have happened in church, it may have happened elsewhere. It always has something to do with sharing joy and becoming a community and being moved to a different, special place, and it's a profoundly powerful experience that – once shared – is always sought.

It's not quite accurate, therefore, to say that the true measure of success in the Altar Guild's Ministry is the extent to which no one notices it." We might not notice the specific things that the Altar Guild has done but we will certainly notice the results, the overall effect and atmosphere that they have helped to create.

This is true at least in part because it isn't just *what* is done by the Altar Guild that's important but also *the way* it's done that contributes to this experience. In some mysterious way that can't be measured or quantified but is nonetheless very real the way that the Altar Guild goes about that preparation makes a difference to the way in which it's experienced by the congregation. If the preparation is done prayerfully, acknowledging why it is being done and what the hopes for it are as it is done, then the grace of that experience will be carried through into worship for all of us.

Thus the ministry of the Altar Guild is not only the doing but the praying about it. Not only is it a blessing to all of us who benefit from the Altar Guild's ministry of doing, we are also blessed by the Altar Guild's prayerful approach to that doing.

In so doing the Altar Guild is central to the sacramental ministry of this place – and it is also a wonderful way to exercise sacramental ministry, even if it is, for most folk, unseen.

Thank you, Altar Guild members, for your ministry among us!



## *A Christian Love Story*

*submitted by John Watson*

On Tuesday, February 8, 2011 the Sports section of the Seattle Times ran a front page story with a picture of Bobby Vogel, a 67 year old developmentally disabled man. The story was written by Times columnist Jerry Brewer and headlined "Auburn's No. 1 Fan".

I hope many of you read it because the story depicted a truly happy person who gave love and joy to all he met and who was, in return, adopted and loved by a school community and the citizens of Auburn, WA. Because of his illness and the time in which he lived he was denied the opportunity to attend school and receive a school education.

Approximately 9 years ago Bobby was hanging around the high school, during basketball practice time when the coach discovered him and inquired about his interest. Since Bobby seemed affable, energetic and loved basketball the coach made him the team manager. In 9 years Bobby missed only 3 practices, performed competently all the duties he was assigned, received numerous awards, and gained the love and affection of not only the team but the entire student body. Bobby says it's not only his school but it's the best high school in the world. Bobby's faith comes as a member of Auburn's Grace Community Church.

In light of the lessons we've read and heard preached so ably by Nigel & Fletcher since Martin Luther King's holiday as well as the lessons exemplified by our Peace Fellowship Ministry this story is also instructive!

"Love" is an active verb and one is "righteous" who by action demonstrates love for another, seeks truth and justice for the least of us and by deference to others practices humility.

Look what the coaches in this story reaped in return by their active interest in this 67 year old some 9 years ago. Not only was it a gift to the team but to the entire student body and the Auburn community.

Bobby Vogel is truly a "clown of God" as described in the book by the same name. This book, in our parish library, describes the first ones favored by God when the apocalypse occurs. I can't recall the author but the first taken were the least of us-not those in power nor of wealth.

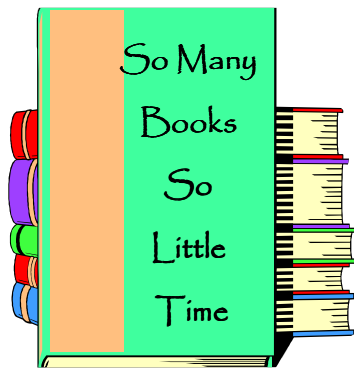
I have never believed the maxim "the first shall be last and the last shall be first" applied to food lines since hesitancy is not desired by the chefs or servers of hot food. But it does apply to all other actions in the way you treat your fellow citizens.

In conclusion, this story illustrates how few material possessions are needed to make one happy when all is said and done. GOD BLESS

## *Library Corner* by Margaret Schultz

The library will be closed at the end of this month so the library committee can begin inventory control and box up our books in preparation for the move into the new library in the parish hall. Please return your library books before March so our inventory control will be accurate. We need this for insurance purposes. Thank you,

Margaret Schultz and the library committee.



## *February Vestry Notes* Diana Klein, Vestry Clerk

Nigel has been talking with the bank in regards to a Line of Credit for the building. It is expected to be approved shortly.

The financial bookkeeping process is being reorganized to make the treasurer's job less time consuming.

Nigel and Brian are meeting with Annie regarding the Christian Formation program for youngsters and youth.

As of March 1, we will have a new website using the same address:

[www.staugustinesepiscopalchurch.org](http://www.staugustinesepiscopalchurch.org).

Jodi Heiken will join Susan Sandri and Margaret Schultz as the Owners' Rep group for the building.

The parking lot will be torn up for three weeks during construction. Options were discussed.

March 6 is the next visitation to the new building. We are not to go in until then.

There was extensive discussion regarding the proposed St. Augustine's Counseling Policy.

The Endowment Committee's recommendation for funds to MSO, the Scholarship fund and the Parish Bonds Interest fund, was approved.

The first Town Hall will be Sunday, February 20 after both services. It is planned to have a Town Hall meeting each quarter.

The next Vestry meeting will be Thursday, March 24 at 4:30 at Susan Sandri's due to time and place conflicts with other meetings.

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## *Food Storage in the Undercroft*

Just a reminder that any food put in the refrigerator must be labeled with date and purpose. I know that it is tempting to leave food thinking that it will be used for the next occasion, however, not knowing when the food arrived no one wants to use it! If it is labeled - we will know and gratefully use the food. There are post-it notes on the fridge for everyone's convenience, so please use them and help us to not have to through food away. THANKS!

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## *March ECW Meeting* submitted by Carol Ryan

Our February 2nd ECW was cancelled due to bad weathers. Our next meeting will be April 6, 2011 in the Undercroft. Margaret Schultz is arranging a surprise speaker for us.

Be sure to bring a sandwich to share. Soup will be provided.

See you there!

*What's Happening: Christian Offerings in the Puget Sound*  
*Submitted By Shantina Steele*

**St. Mark's Cathedral – Seattle, WA** Contact: Darlene (206.527.8609) or Terrie (206.431.0751) or email [wisdomforge@gmail.com](mailto:wisdomforge@gmail.com) Cynthia Bourgeault

**Hear What Mary Magdalene Has to Say to the Church** Thursday, March 17 Saint Mark's Cathedral and Wisdom Forge at Trinity present Cynthia Bourgeault, an Episcopal priest, writer and internationally known retreat leader. She travels globally to teach and spread the recovery of the Christian contemplative path. Cynthia is the author of seven books, the latest of which is *The Meaning of Mary Magdalene*. She passionately promotes the practice of Centering Prayer, and has worked closely with Thomas Keating, Bruno Barnhart, Richard Rohr and many other contemplative teachers and masters within Christianity and other spiritual traditions. Workshop: Contemplative Teaching and Practice Sessions 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bloedel Hall A day of teaching and practice with Cynthia Bourgeault, including meditation, in a practice oriented and informal mode. Session 1: 9:30 a.m. - noon; Session 2: 1:30 - 4 p.m. (If you are attending both sessions, plan to bring a sack lunch or eat at one of the restaurants on Broadway Ave E, south of the Cathedral.) Cost: \$25 per daytime session or \$60 for the full workshop including the evening lecture. Evening Lecture, book signing and reception: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Bloedel Hall Cynthia Bourgeault, the author of the acclaimed book *The Meaning of Mary Magdalene* will delve into the profound relevance of this foundational figure in Christian history, whose crucial role has far too often been neglected and misunderstood. Lecture tickets: \$18; (\$12 students/seniors/hardship) tickets available through The Cathedral Shop at Saint Mark's 206.323.1040. Books are available for purchase through The Cathedral Shop before and during the event. (Note: If anyone would like to carpool to this event, I am currently reading Cynthia's book and am planning on attending the entire day's event)

**Saint Placid Priory – Lacey, WA** Contact: [spiritualityctr@stplacid.org](mailto:spiritualityctr@stplacid.org) 360-438-2595

**March 11-13: WALKING THROUGHT LENT** Friday 7:15 PM - Sunday Noon. Take time to walk with Jesus into the wilderness for greater solitude, and in silence, deepen your spiritual journey. The opening session will include guided meditation and preparation for the retreat with reflection materials. The retreat will close with group prayer and sharing. A spiritual director will be available, for those who wish. You are welcome to join the Benedictine Sisters for Liturgy of the Hours and the Eucharist. Healing Touch may be available by prior appointment on a limited basis for an additional fee. Register by prior Friday - \$130; with spiritual direction - \$165. Minimum 3, Maximum 10

**March 12: SOUL-SEARCHING: THE JOURNEY OF THOMAS MERTON** Saturday 9:15 AM - 3:00 PM. In the film, "Soul Searching," participants can expect to gain greater knowledge of Merton's life and critical turning points in it. By growing in understanding of the whole Merton we can appreciate his spiritual path more fully and gain insights into our own. Register by February 26 - \$60. Bring a sack lunch. Minimum 10, Maximum 60

**March 16: CULTIVATING SPIRIT IN DAILY LIFE: SPRING-CLEANING THE HOUSE OF SELF** Wednesday 9:00 AM - Noon. (This is a series; you may sign up for one or several programs). Each of us has many parts of self, some of which may become too dominant while others suffer from neglect. Through guided meditation, you will visit the many rooms of self to rediscover your passions, deep longings, and wild imaginings. You'll also encounter your creative muse and make peace with your inner critic. Register by prior Wednesday - \$55.



March 19: THE CELTIC PILGRIMAGE: A DAILY JOURNEY TO THE SACRED Saturday 9:15 AM - 3:00 PM. Perhaps we are all pilgrims yearning for mountaintop experiences, whether they occur in a distant land or in our own backyards. We'll weave harp music, Celtic wisdom, poetry, story, and nature connection practices, and offer spacious time for solitude and discernment to nourish our spirits and open our hearts to a sacred intimacy that can be found in 'ordinary time'--the everyday. We will then create daily rituals for finding and conversing with this inherent holiness in our own lives. Register by prior Friday \$60. Bring a sack lunch, journal, pen, comfortable clothes and shoes for walking. Minimum 8

March 26: CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF YEARS Saturday 9:15 AM - 3:00 PM. This workshop introduces surprising, anti-ageism research about the many gifts surfacing in later years. As "seasoned humans," you will complete positive exercises and inventories such as "Blessed with Abilities" and explore elder applications of strengths-based spirituality. In the book, *The Gift of Years*, it states: "One of the obstacles to leading an exciting life in our later years is that we become so sure we are losing something and so unaware of what we are gaining." Register by the priory Friday - \$55. Bring a sack lunch.

Please email suggestions of upcoming events you would like to be included in this directory to: shanti-nasteale@hotmail.com

## *Coffee Hostesses Retire . . . Can you provide a snack?*

Recently one of our long term and lovely coffee hostesses retired from serving coffee and treats after the 8am service. At this time we do not have any replacement.

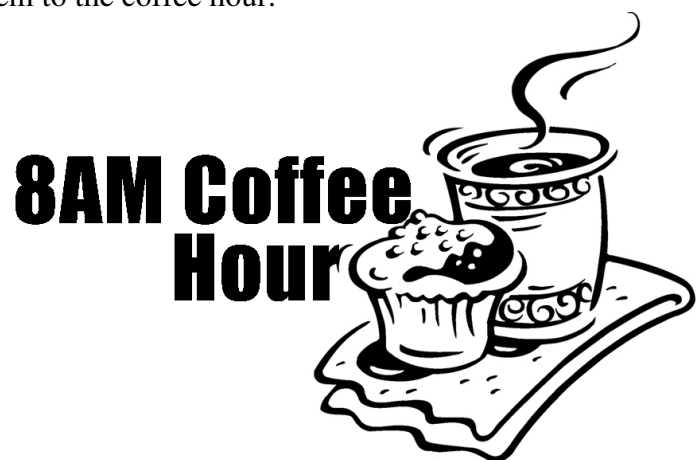
We hope that someone will either step up **OR** step in occasionally as the spirit may move them.

What we mean by this is: If you are making a Costco run, you might feel like purchasing some cookies or biscotti and bringing them to the coffee hour.

We will not consider this an obligation and hope that more people may feel like participating once every five weeks.

The dates open are: February 27;  
April 3; May 8 and June 12.  
(The schedule is written thru June 2011.)

Thanks Pat Brookes



## Financial Stewardship at a Glance

For our 2011 operating budget, St. Augustine's has received **79 pledges for a total of \$231,541**. Thank you for your commitment to stewardship.

Our total pledge income (as well as the total number of pledging families) for 2011 actually rose slightly from 2010. This is a generous parish and we should all be very grateful for that, especially given the current, difficult economic environment.

All of us need to be aware and concerned, however, that **our operating budget is increasingly dependent on a very small number of large pledges**. (Please note that **your personal pledge is private**. Only the stewardship chair and the parish treasurer see your personal pledged amount.)

Here is a snapshot of how our current 2011 pledges fall:

\$92,000 or **40% of total committed dollars** are annual pledges over \$6,900 and come from 3 parishioners.

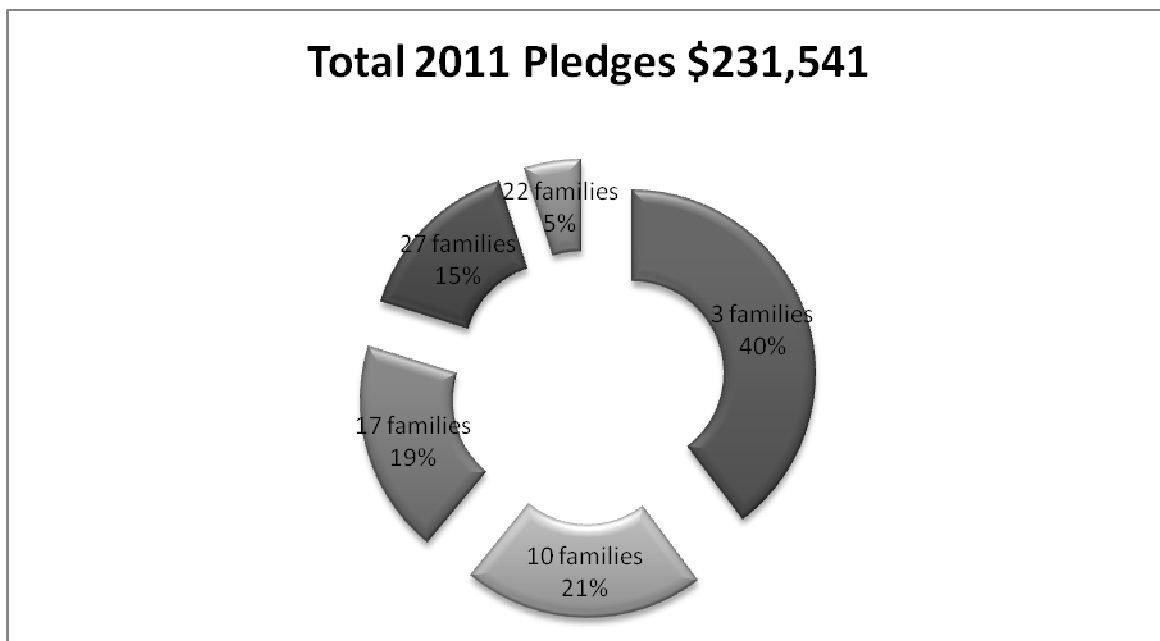
\$49,300 or **21% of total committed dollars** are annual pledges between \$3,000 and \$6,900 and come from 10 parishioners.

\$43,480 or **19% of total committed dollars** are annual pledges between \$2,000 and \$3,000 and come from 17 parishioners.

\$35,220 or **15% of total committed dollars** are annual pledges between \$1,000 and \$2,000 and come from 27 parishioners.

\$11,541 or **5% of total committed dollars** are annual pledges of \$1,000 or less and come from 22 parishioners.

**More than 60% of our total pledged income comes from 13 of our 79 pledging families.**



**No gift is more important or shows anyone to be a more important member of the congregation than another. However, this allows you to know where your gift stands in terms of other gifts and shows that we rely on a very small number of individuals for a majority of our pledged income.**

## *Christian Education Offering*

*by Annie Deacon*

We are beginning to fill up the volunteer positions in our nursery and with the Godly Play group. There are several slots still open. There are sign up sheets at the top of the stairs and in the undercroft for nursery assistants. There is a particular need for volunteers during Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Particularly difficult times to fill because most people want to attend those services. Therefore I am asking those who attend the 8:00 service for their assistance specifically for those two Sundays.

For Godly Play, there is still the need for Door Keepers on February 27th, March 6, 13, 20 and April 3 and 17. For information about what a Door Persons Duties are I am leaving a description sheet with the sign up sheet in the undercroft.

After some time of discussing the idea of a junior vestry, we will finally have our first meeting Sunday morning March 13th. Harry Anderson will be guiding our young people through the process of setting up their vestry. I am very excited about beginning this venture with them. A hands on experience into the workings of a congregation will provide for them life skills that are priceless.

March 26th from 2 to 4:30 is the next youth gathering. I am working on some activities that I think all will enjoy. As soon as I have those planned I will send out an email with a list of activities planned.

For adults - There will be a Lenten program offered this year. Details about this program will be posted in the announcements and in the E-Pistle. The dates are March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 1 & 14.

As always we will be starting with a light supper of soup, salad and bread.

Look for sign up sheets at the top of the stairs and the undercroft. By all means if you have not signed up you are always welcome to come. By signing up the cooks know how much to food to prepare.

These Thursday evening programs are worth coming to for the food and the conversation, but most importantly for the community. The programs are worth coming to as well.

Peace  
Annie



- 2 = Sarah Parker's Birthday
- 6 = Tom Clendenin's Birthday
- 8 = Megan Parker's Birthday
- 9 = **Ash Wednesday**  
Gary Johnson's Birthday
- 10 = Peggy Manchester's Birthday
- 14 = Judy Yeakel's Birthday
- 15 = Rachel Taber-Hamilton's Birthday
- 16 = Alexandra & Andrew Lewis-Smith's  
Anniversary
- 21 = Mary Chapman's Birthday
- 22 = Sue Idso's Birthday
- 24 = David Close's Birthday
- 31 = Joel Connelly's Birthday