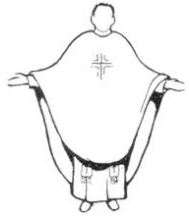


The Grapevine

November 2011

That Word: “Stewardship”



off-putting.

Have you ever noticed that the Church uses fancy words to describe ordinary things? The “chasuble” I wear on Sundays is really a poncho. The “collect” we pray is just a prayer. The “tabernacle” is a cupboard and a “pulpit” could otherwise be known as – a paper stand. Some may think our nomenclature is classy and nice while others may find it funny or absurd. And I’m sure there are others who find our esoteric language to be confusing, stuffy or

I have a friend who once asked me after visiting a church, “Why do they put the word *ministry* after everything? There’s hiking *ministry*, recycling *ministry*, garden *ministry*. What’s up with that? Why can’t they just call it hiking, recycling or gardening club or something like that?” He had a good point. I had to think about that for a minute.

I think one of the reasons why the church uses uncommon names for common things is that it’s one way we remind ourselves to remember God in what we do, what we use, and what we say. Putting on a “chasuble” is special. Wearing a poncho is ordinary. Going into a building is common place, but when I call it a sanctuary – I remember that it’s special.

Another special church-word we use is “Stewardship”. I guess in ordinary terms we could call it budgeting or prioritizing. But I like the word Stewardship so much better. To say “budgeting” or even “prioritizing” makes me a little tense. My scared-self takes over and I start to think “we just don’t have enough. What’s going to get short-changed?” I find myself feeling stressed, worried, and sometimes sorry for myself. What I feel is scarcity.

But, when I use the word “stewardship”, even in my thoughts, I find myself opening up. I am less anxious and more grateful. Stewardship is our way of remembering that all that we have, all that we are comes from God. **We are given gifts: our life, our abilities, our talents, our resources... in order to be the best servants of God we can be in the world.** It is so freeing to know that all that we have comes from God and it is our call to be good stewards, or caretakers, of all that has been given to us.



Soon, you’ll be asked if you’d like to make a financial pledge to support the on-going ministry of St. Matthew’s church. I encourage you to use “church words” in your consideration. **Instead of trying to “fit this into the budget”, take a step back, look at what God has blessed you with and given you to are for and then ask what you would like to give back.** No one is asking you to give so much that you’ll go without the things you need. But, perhaps we have more than we think we do. How is God calling you to use or share what you’ve been given?

*“All things come of thee, O Lord,
and of thine own have we given thee.”*

UNITED THANK OFFERING

Do we continue to keep our U.T.O. blue boxes in that prominent spot in our homes? They inspire us, after our daily prayers of thanksgiving, to drop in a coin.

Every cent we give representing our prayers is given away in grants to address human needs throughout the world and for mission expansion. It all began in 1898 and continues to this day and beyond.

The Ingathering takes place at the All Saints' Day celebration on Sunday, November 6th. An envelope is also enclosed for your convenience.

Thanks be to God for the many blessing He has bestowed on us all.



(Please convert your coins into a check for the Ingathering. Our tellers will be most appreciative).

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



November 18th & 19th is the Diocesan Convention at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool. The youth will have a table to sell prayer beads and jewelry to benefit our sponsored children in Africa, Emilie and Saffa. If you are able to come and help out, contact Karen Stace at 652-9772 or kstace@a-znet.com

I would like to thank the choir members who were able to participate in the Community Eucharist on October 12. Singing Taizé as background during the Laying on of Hands was particularly meaningful. In addition, thanks go to the choir members who were able to go to Elderwood for the service on October 30. This is an important ministry to the residents there.

We welcome a new soprano to the choir: Jodi Serrano. Jodi has sung with a jazz band in Morrisville and then sang in the college choir and a madrigal group at Oswego as well as the community chorus. She has a beautiful voice, and we welcome her talent in the choir.

In September, I attended a choral workshop sponsored by Shawnee Press, and I discovered a new sacred choral composer: Heather Sorenson. I have since purchased two of her anthems. One is a powerful song of worship and adoration entitled *Raise Your Hands* which the choir will sing on November 13. Another is *Every Good and Perfect Gift* which we will sing for the Fruits of the Earth service on November 20. It is based on James 1:17 and Psalm 85:12. It has cello accompaniment, and Carson Webb has graciously agreed to play the cello with us. We welcome his participation.

The first Sunday of Advent falls on the weekend following Thanksgiving. Many choir members will be out of town visiting family. As a result, we will probably sing an offertory hymn rather than an anthem on that Sunday.



Sue Parsons
Music Director

ACOLYTE APPRECIATION SUNDAY



On **Sunday, November 20th**, at both the **8:00 and 10:15am services**, we will pay special tribute to those who serve as our Acolytes each Sunday, as well as all the special services throughout the year. We are asking all Acolytes to be present at one of the services on November 20th for this special recognition. Thank you.

John Vigliotti

WINE AND CHEESE/SILENT AUCTION

November 19th



The Wine and Cheese/ Silent Auction is just around the corner. Last year, I began my holiday shopping at the silent auction. Starting October 23rd, I will have a number of baskets available for you to choose from. Look for the baskets in the gathering area by the office.

Please list on the hall bulletin board what item you are bringing to auction and whether you are bringing wine or munchy to share. Please bring your auction items to church by Friday, November 18th.

Suggestions:

- A basket with a bread mix, bread pan, and bread cloth...
- A basket with crackers, cheese, a bottle of wine and a bottle opener....
- A free car wash certificate (by you, a business or maybe a basket with the tools to wash a car – ie: tire cleaner, rags, etc. in a bucket)...
- A certificate for mowing someone’s lawn...
- A movie basket with popcorn, candy and a family movie...
- A recipe and the ingredients to make the recipe...
- A certificate for a special cake...
- A promise to make a pie...
- A special purse you have made...
- A certificate to make two dozen cutouts Christmas cookies...
- Lottery ticket tree...

Please join us on November 19th for an evening of fun and relaxation.

OUR GREATEST GIFT FROM GOD

Thomas Keating

On the spiritual journey, there is usually someone in our family, business or community whom we cannot endure, someone who has a genius for bringing out the worst in us. No matter what we do, we cannot seem to improve the relationship. They have not done anything to cause it. God simply uses them to reflect back to us what *our* problem is. Thus the person who gives us the most trouble may be our greatest gift from God.

Source: *Invitation to Love*

PIE FEST!

On **Sunday, November 20th**, St. Matthew’s Outreach Commission will hold a Pie Fest. It’s a bake sale of pies! We have some great bakers, and especially pie makers, among our parishioners.

If you would like to bake a pie, freeze some of the wonderful produce available now, and save it for making your pie in November. Of course, if you’d like to contribute baked goods, they’re always welcome.

Some of our favorites in the past have been:

- † Cherry Pie
- † Apple Pie
- † Pumpkin Pie
- † Coconut Cream Pie
- † Chocolate Pie
- † Berry Pie
- † Mincemeat Pie



Yum, yum, yum!

If you’d like to purchase a pie – what a great way to get ready for Thanksgiving! Tell your friends and neighbors! Pie Fest will be held between services. Get there early for the best selection!

MILITARY COURTESY ROOM

Below it a thank you note from the Staff of the Gregory J. Harris Military Courtesy Room. In addition, Lisa Sager would like to add her personal “thank you” for your generous contributions to this very worthy cause.



St. Nicholas' Service and Pot-Luck Dinner



Tuesday, December 6th 6:00 pm

The evening begins at 6:00 with a pot-luck dinner, followed by a St. Nicholas service in the church

St. Nicholas (270-347A.D.) was a Bishop in Myra (modern day Turkey), he had a reputation for secret gift-giving and has thus become a model for Santa Claus. He is also known as the patron saint of children.

Please sign up on the sheet posted near the kitchen

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church,
904 Vine St. Liverpool NY 13088

ANGEL TREE 2011



Once again this year, we will be supporting the Angel Tree Christmas program. For those of you unfamiliar with this program, it involves the children of men and/or women in prison and helping to make sure that their kids have a joyous Christmas. Hopefully, we will get about 40 names. I will make up two tags each, and members of the parish take one (or more) and purchase a gift (or gifts) for the child they have chosen. One tag is for toys and the other is for clothing. As in the past, I will ask for help calling families to try to determine sizes and what the child's interest may be. Sometimes it is not possible to reach a family member, so we have to use our

best judgment. Gift cards to places like Best Buy, JC Penney, Sears, Gap, or mall certificates are fine.

Traditionally, the tags are put up the Sunday after Thanksgiving. I will also, be asking for volunteers to help deliver the gifts in time for Christmas. They are all local deliveries so no one goes too far. **This year the wrapped gifts will be due no later than December 18th (this may change to an earlier date).** This is a wonderful Christmas experience and this parish has been so supportive.

Thanks so much for your support.

Cathy Labucki

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

When I think of October, I often think of stewardship. I look at the color of the landscaping as it changes and the bounty of the harvest that is in the stores and available to us. From apple picking to pumpkin picking and decorating, the abundance we have is overwhelming. As the senior warden at St. Thomas' Church, I was honored to work with the Bellewood Baptist people in their hour of need. I always had little guilt that we might profit from their misfortune. That is why I am so pleased and thankful to announce the vestry has taken the small profit from this disaster and put it to good use.

Rather than leave the money in the bank like the servant who put the money in the ground, the vestry has voted to do some outreach work. It is not a lot in consideration of the great need, but it is a statement of faith that we should reach out to others and trust in God to take care of us.

Because Jesus said feed the hungry, the vestry has donated \$200.00 to St. Matthew's to be used to help feed those at the Samaritan Center. They have also voted to send \$200.00 to the North Syracuse Meals on Wheels program. Because we are expected to help the sick and suffering, a \$200.00 donation is being made to both NAVAC and Hospice for the help and care they give. Another \$200.00 is being sent to the American Cancer Society (St. Thomas' lost some good women to this terrible disease).

I not sure Jesus actually said it, but I believe he implied that we should defend the weak. How can we forget the men and women in our military that put themselves in harm's way for us? Defending us by day and by night. A \$200.00 donation to the Harrison Military Room at the airport is being sent. The North Syracuse Volunteer Fire department was there for St. Thomas' when we needed them, as they are there for so many others in time of need, so a donation of \$200.00 went to them.

I wish we could have done more, but last, but by no means least, a \$300.00 donation is going to the Red Cross who are always there to feed, clothe and help those in need. The work they do as first responders is beyond words.

I share this with all because we are one church and one community. We have one faith and one God. The money was not earned, it was a gift and therefore, needs to be shared. The money may have come from St. Thomas' checkbook, but St. Matthew's and St. Thomas' are one family. This is everyone's donation and I hope what has been done will meet with everyone's approval.

Yours in Christ,
Raymond F. Grzenda

HEAVENLY BAKERS

Many hands make light work! That's the driving principle behind the St. Matthew's Heavenly Bakers. The Heavenly Bakers List is one central list of bakers that parish leaders can call upon for any church event that requires desserts. The idea is that, in this way, the same four or five people will not be asked to bake for every event while other cooks' skills go untasted!

If you are planning a church event at which you would like to serve desserts, please contact me, Courtenay McKeon, by phone at 214-9276 or by email at cnycourtenay@yahoo.com. Tell me what your event is, what type of desserts you would like, how many servings you need, and where and when the bakers should drop off their goods. I'll then contact the bakers to find enough volunteers to meet your needs.

If you are a baker who would like to be on the list, call me or email me! The more people who volunteer, the fewer times any one person will be asked to bake over the course of the year.

**GREGORY J. HARRIS MILITARY COURTESY ROOM AT HANCOCK
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

The military courtesy room opened July 29, 2008 and was established for the use and relaxation of all active and reserve military personnel traveling through the Central New York area. Our military often have to spend long hours waiting for their flights, sometimes overnight, when heading home on leave, moving to a new duty station or returning to their place of deployment. As part of St. Matthew's Outreach Commission, Lisa Sager is heading a project to help provide donated items to the courtesy room that the service men and women can use while waiting for their flights. Non-perishable goods that are regularly needed are **Beverages:** Powerade, soft drinks, fruit juices, bottled water; coffee, tea, hot chocolate. **Snacks:** Individual snacks such as chips, crackers and cookies, etc. Breakfast Danishes, Hot Pockets, Ramen Noodles, Chef Boyardee products, individual pizzas, granola bars, beef jerky / Slim Jims, and fruit cups. **Comfort Kits:** (with personal hygiene items) - deodorant, shaving cream and razors, pocket tissues, toothbrushes, paste, floss, shampoo, Q Tips, powder, Handi-Wipes, hand sanitizer, combs, brushes, clippers. **DVD's & books** welcomed. Collected items will be delivered monthly to the courtesy room on behalf of St. Matthew's. Lisa already has delivered several boxes to the courtesy room. **VOLUNTEERING:** If you would like to volunteer at the Courtesy Room, please see Lisa for an application or the application can be completed on the website, at **www.GregHarrisMCR.org** and emailed. You will need an e-mail address that you regularly check, as this is the communication mode used with the volunteers. The purpose of the volunteer is to provide comfort, a smile and a positive setting. You probably would make coffee and help keep the area orderly and clean and assist our military however possible. Volunteers are scheduled in pairs; a new volunteer with one of experience. If you are interested in volunteering visit the website. For more information or questions, please contact Lisa Sager, 699-7250.

WHAT IS THE NEXT RIGHT THING?
Roy Howard

Jesus didn't send the hungry away. He never does. Undaunted by the magnitude of the need, he does the compassionate deed with what is at hand. This is the miracle of compassion that his followers are invited to repeat. Take what is at hand--a little of this and a little of that--and give it away to God's hungry people, believing that God will do wonders with our offerings.

Jesus takes the small things, like cup of water and loaf of bread, and does what compassion calls for at the precise moment. He refuses to be overwhelmed, either by his own need for comfort or the urgent needs of the people. Instead of anxiety about not having enough, he looks upon the face of human hunger and does the next right thing.

Christians might wonder whether this question will be on the final exam: "What did you do when faced with human hunger?" What is the next right thing?

Albert Einstein famously said, "The way I see it, you have two ways to live your life: one, as if no miracles exist and the other, as though everything is a miracle." To be open to the miraculous is to be open to impossible things becoming possible. It is a stance toward life that is fundamentally hopeful, one that places confidence in God always, and is especially confident when all other sources have run out.

Source: Sermon (Feeding the Hungry) St. Mark's Presbyterian Church

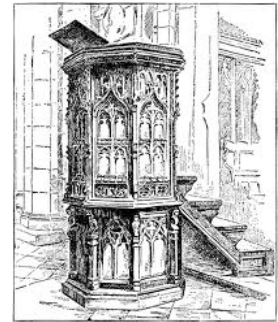


PULPIT: In the early Christian Church, the bishop preached from where he sat. The development of a stand-up preaching place is “modern” in the sense that it began in the 12th or 13th century and became generally accepted in the Late Middle Ages. The preaching stand is called a pulpit from the Latin “pulpitum” meaning a scaffold, stage or stand. The canons of 1604 required that a pulpit be provided in every English church and that it be “comely and decent” as well as “seemly kept.”

A pulpit is normally constructed of either wood or stone, in keeping with the décor of the interior of the church. They are often fashioned with a gate which can be

closed (to prevent the preacher from pitching over backwards) leading to stairs or steps by which the pulpit is mounted. The English ceremonialist Percy Dearmer also suggest that the pulpit should be surrounded with a rail because “Englishmen...find their hands rather in the way” and they will “avoid fingering their garmets” if there is a rail to grasp.

Pulpits grew in elaboration and decoration, particularly from the 16th century. They may be adorned with illustrations deriving from their use: God giving the Law to Moses, Jesus preaching, the symbols of the four Evangelists. Outstanding examples of ornate pulpits are found in the carved wooden pulpits of the Netherlands and the sculpted marble pulpits of Italy. The front of the pulpit may be decorated with a cloth hanging, typically in the liturgical color of the day. The pulpit is normally located on the Gospel (left-hand) side of the chancel or nave. For acoustical reasons, pulpits built in older churches were located against a wall or pier. Wherever it is located, it is crucial that the preacher be able to see and be seen by the entire congregation.



Some modern churches combine pulpit and lectern into a single furnishing called an ambo, from which both reading and preaching takes place. Some smaller churches do quite well without a pulpit, the preacher using the lectern or standing in the aisle.

Dearmer recommends the installation of a small clock within the pulpit: “The congregation will often have cause to be grateful if there is a clock within sight of the preacher.”

In the American Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer form for the Consecration of a church, the new pulpit is blessed by the bishop with a prayer for those who preach and those who hear the Word of God from it. The pulpit thus stands as a symbol of God’s presence in his Word, much as the altar symbolizes God’s presence in the Holy Eucharist.

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NOVEMBER

Balduf, Billy	24	Jones, Willard	13
Barrus, Kyle	02	McGaffick, Kathy	11
Bearup, Emma	28	McKeon, Courtenay	15
Carroll, Judith	14	Miller, Arena	30
Croyle, Dora Mae	01	Schofield-Broadbent, Carrie	12
Davis, Sandra	25	Smith, Paul	16
Deckman, Danielle	05	Starliper, Yvonne	12
Good, Amy	05	Steul, Mavis	01
Hannah, Laurel	04	Turo, Sue	06
Hines, Abigail	07	Weekley, Aaron	10
Hurlburt, Brett	11		

(If anyone has been omitted from this list, please call the office)

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chris Allen | Jeanne Ney |
| Joan Amerman | Rancier Family |
| April | Corey & Ellyn Shaughnessy-Robeson |
| Elizabeth Bartlett | Shirley Shepard |
| Brenda | Richard Slade |
| Lee Ciciarelli | Sally Smith |
| Timothy Dight Cook | Louise Staring |
| Shari Drace | Jean Stearns |
| Eleanor Duke | Fred Steul |
| Jason Garafalo | Jane Stevens |
| Doris Hatch | Edwin Thayer |
| John L. | Wayne Tullar |
| Jake LaPlatney | Clemente Vigliotti |
| Em Michnowicz | Kenya Younger |
| Gladys Miller | Thomas Zino |
| Helen McGaffick | |

SHOPPING CART SUNDAY

November 20th

Items for Thanksgiving Dinner

THANK YOU!



December Grapevine Deadline

November 20th

