

Important
Parish Meeting
Jan 13 - be sure
to come!!

St. Marys Messenger

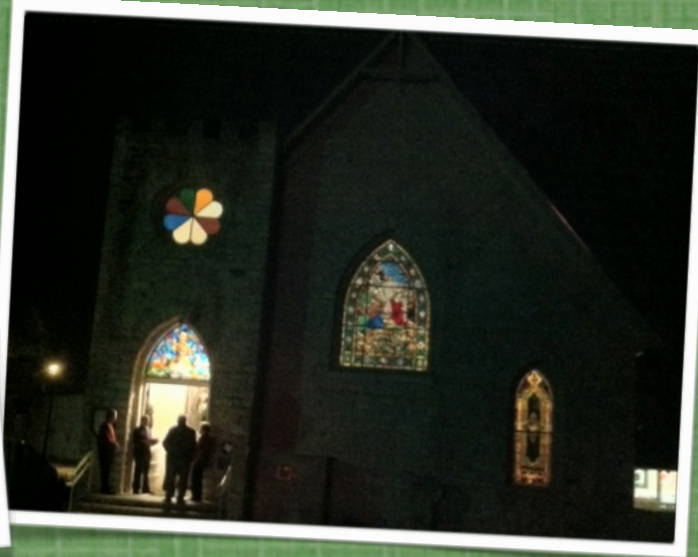
JANUARY 2013

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, LAMPASAS, TX

VOL. 3 NO. 1



*Christmas 2012 at
St. Mary's
Episcopal Church*



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

"Happy New Year" rolls off our lips without a moment's consideration. We say it and keep moving. Maybe we need to stop and consider the amazing power contained in the phrase that we say to others, - and which we also need to extend to ourselves.



"Happy New Year", in effect, puts us in the driver's seat. WE are the ones who extend this blessing to others. This act - in and of itself - is astounding.

From whom did we get the power to tell others to have a good year? The answer to this question is right in front of our noses. We don't have to look any further than the Bible for the answer to this: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you." (John 15:16).

Now, consider the word, "**Happy**". When we say this, we are extending blessings to the recipient and inviting him/her to a deeper relationship with God. "Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!" (Psalm 144:15 NKJV). God built us to turn to him and find our fulfillment, our contentment and our happiness in a relationship with him.

Next, the word "**New**" in effect, directs (or allows) people to hit the "reset" button on lousy thinking or negative behaviors that they may have had in 2012. We wish others to have a fresh start, a new outlook, or a change to positive thinking...maybe a renewed relationship with the Lord?

The last word, "**Year**", I think, extends hope. We don't have to change everything immediately. God is patient and does not expect instantaneous perfection - but he DOES want us to turn to Him. We are given longer than a day to accomplish this task - but not eternity. The idea of a "year" provides us with a sense of security - and allows us to

march into 2013 with a "we can do it" attitude. We CAN experience God's blessings, we CAN stop negative behaviors.

Finally, I think, we need to say "Happy New Year" to ourselves. We need to stop berating ourselves for our faults or weaknesses. We need to be gentle with our own souls and experience God's blessings in our hearts.

So, from the bottom of our hearts, "Happy New Year!"

Tom and Mary





*From
the*

Pulpit...

I feel a renewed sense of joy and hopefulness in the air at St. Mary's, and I keep hearing the same from church members. 2013 promises to be a year of blessings for our church.

I look forward to serving God with you in the coming year. I am deeply thankful to God for each of you, and the varied gifts and perspectives that each of you bring to our life together as a church.

As this year begins, I hope that each of you will commit to praying for each other, and for our common life at St. Mary's.

*Yours in Christ,
Susie +*

Children's Christmas Service...



Sometimes the best presents aren't those that are wrapped in flashy paper or glitter. Sometimes the best presents are humbly presented...

Vestry Elections at our Annual Meeting.

We offer our sincere thanks to these vestry members whose three year terms ended in 2012: Victor Reed, Lola Cureton, and Bill Adams, who served as Senior Warden the last two years.

For the class of 2015, the following members have consented to run:

C. M. Crawford
Anne Gilmore
Abel Turner

In addition, two current vestry members have resigned for personal reasons before their time expired, Brian Williams, and Judy Heatherly, and we also thank them most sincerely, for their work as vestry members.

For the class of 2014 (to complete two unexpired terms), the following members have agreed to run:

Linda Joseph
Jack Newsom

All five are pledging church members of St. Mary's, and they have carefully considered the commitment involved to serve on the vestry of St. Mary's.

Proposed 2013 Budget

Dear St. Mary's Members and Friends:

On the next two pages you can see the proposed budget that the Vestry saw at their December meeting, in 2012. It is a "bare bones" budget based on the pledge and "plate" income we knew of in mid-December, and while only 'necessary' line items are kept in the budget, our projected income and projected expenses were still not in balance. We are hoping to have a balanced budget for you at the annual meeting on January 13, 2013 based upon additional pledges, so do not be anxious. Rather, look at the numbers, and come with your questions to our annual meeting!

As we work together, by giving and planning responsibly for St. Mary's this coming year, we are nurturing our church family and providing a healthy expression of the Body of Christ in Lampasas, Texas.

Faithfully,

Susie +

REVENUE

YEAR 2012

PROPOSED
2013

Pledges and Contributions	\$128,575	\$117,890
Earned Interest	\$900	\$900
Rental Income	\$1,920	\$1,920
Youth Group Fundraising	\$0	\$0
Youth Group Salary Offset	\$10,335	\$5,827
TOTAL REVENUE	\$141,730	\$126,537

EXPENSES	YEAR 2012	PROPOSED 2013
Clergy Related:		
Clergy Stipend	\$41,000	\$24,000
Clergy Tax Reimbursement	\$4,609	6,888
Clergy Pension Premiums	\$10,910	9,880
Clergy Housing Allowance	\$15,000	24,000
Clergy Supplemental Insurance	\$624	0
Clergy Continuing Education	\$1,200	500.
Clergy Travel	\$4,200	6,000
TOTAL CLERGY RELATED	\$77,543	\$71,268
Diocesan Related:		
Diocesan Council expenses	\$850	\$788
Diocesan Assessment	\$17,157	16,073
Diocesan Missionary/Diocese	\$7,319	6,520
TOTAL DIOCESAN RELATED	\$25,326	\$23,381
Parish Programs:		
Worship Related	\$800	0.00
Altar Flowers	\$2,440	2,440.00
Christian Education	\$2,000	0.00
Music Dept./Choir	\$110	0.00
Sunday Hospitality	\$520	0.00
Youth Director Salary	\$9,600	5,600.00
Youth Director Taxes	\$735	227.00
Youth Program Expenses	\$600	0.00
Total Parish Programs	\$16,805	8,267.00
Outreach		
Local Outreach	\$7,386	0.00
Total Local Outreach	\$7,386	0.00

Operations/Maintenance	YEAR 2012	PROPOSED 2013
Office Related	750.00	0.00
Copier Machine Related	1,500.00	1,500.00
Postage	300.00	0.00
Public Information	400.00	0.00
Publications	500.00	0.00
Dues and Subscriptions	480.00	0.00
Cleaning/Kitchen Supplies	1,000.00	0.00
Custodian Fee	3,120.00	6,240.00
Grounds	6,000.00	0.00
Pest Control	600.00	0.00
Repairs	5,000.00	0.00
Utilities	10,400.00	10,400.00
Telephone	2,400.00	1,650.00
Insurances	8,500.00	8,100.00
Total Operations/Maintenance	40,950.00	27,890.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	168,010.00	130,806.00
Net Gain (Deficit)	-26,280.00	-4,269.00

\$12,490 - Items that need to be donated:

Postage Stamps - \$300 Yard Work - \$6,000

Cleaning/Kitchen Supplies - \$1,300 Pest Control - \$600
Office Supplies - \$750 Worship Supplies - \$700
Refreshments on Sunday - \$520 Music License - \$320

Website/Public Info - \$350 Sunday School Supplies - \$100
Forward Day By Day/Publications - \$350
Repairs/ change air filters etc. - \$1,200

LOCAL OUTREACH - \$7,327

KnitforKids.org

Knit for Kids is a nationwide program that **unites thousands of volunteer knitters to fight poverty with their knitting needles.**

With every stitch, together we give hope and warmth to vulnerable children living in poverty or other difficult situations around the globe.

For millions of children, a hand-made item isn't just a sweater, cap or blanket. It's a chance at better health. It's protection and warmth from freezing temperatures. And it's a symbol of support for a better future.

Interested? Go to this website: <http://www.knittheworld.org/get-involved/step-1/> and download a pattern for a blanket, cap, or sweater (you can choose easy or hard - knit or crochet).

Taking Responsibility for Sandy Hook

The tragedy in Connecticut has had a profound impact in our country. Congress and the media angrily proclaim the need for gun control.

I think this complex problem is rooted in many areas - and I don't agree that outlawing guns is the sole (or best) response - most gun owners are really responsible. If someone wants a gun they will get a gun - illegally. If they cannot get a gun they will make a bomb...

Rather, I think a truer problem lies in social media and cultural mores. We need to turn off the violent/horrific TV shows, picket stores that sell violent video games, and say "no" to our kids when they want to tune in. We need to stop fantasizing about superheroes and go to church - a place where we are given the tools we need to create a loving, responsible society. Then - *use* them!



RELAY FOR LIFE 2013

St. Mary's needs to decide if we want to participate in the March 2013 Relay for Life event.

We have been the top fund-raiser for the past 3 years - do we wish to continue this tradition?

I will be stepping down as Team Captain, so if we (as a parish) want to do this in 2013, someone needs to pick up the baton and run with it. It is not a lot of work - and I'll help. Just let Mary know...



Tom and Mary Hart are proud to announce that their youngest daughter, Madeleine, graduated this December from Tarleton State University with a degree in Pre-Vet/Animal Science.

Way to go, Maddie!

Vegetarian Kale Soup

"This wonderful soup will warm your insides, delight your taste buds, and fill your stomach on a cold winter's night. It is full of dark green kale, potatoes, and cannellini beans."

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 2 T olive oil | 1 yellow onion, chopped |
| 2 T chopped garlic | 1 bunch chopped kale |
| 8 C water | 6 cubes vegetable bouillon (such as Knorr) |
| 1 (15 oz) can diced tomatoes | 2 (15 oz) cans cannellini beans |
| 6 potatoes, peeled & cubed | 1 T Italian seasoning |
| 2 T dried parsley | salt and pepper to taste |

Heat the olive oil in a large soup pot; cook the onion and garlic until soft. Stir in the kale and cook until wilted, about 2 minutes. Stir in the water, vegetable bouillon, tomatoes, potatoes, beans, Italian seasoning, and parsley. Simmer soup on medium heat for 25 minutes, or until potatoes are cooked through. Season with salt and pepper to taste.



Kathleen's Garden

Tips for January

If you are like the rest of us gardeners, just about everything in your garden got killed off in early-December. Alas! Do not despair! There is still plenty you can do in the garden! More, if you have a greenhouse.

I nestled some large tomato plants I had in planters from the summer into the greenhouse. I've got a fair number of green tomatoes. However, the likely will not turn red without help. Did you know that tomatoes are a "night shade" plant? That means they need dark to turn red, sun to become sweet.

Once your green greenhouse tomatoes are big enough for your liking, wrap them in newspaper and put them in a closet or someplace else you will see them (ergo, not forget about them). About once a week see if they have turned. If they haven't turned after a month, they aren't going to. So, if they haven't rotted (some will), turn them into green salsa or fry them!

Clean out your garden (raised bed). Make sure you **DON'T** compost your tomato plants or any plants that were diseased, had aphids or other unwelcome guests! Supplement your garden with **COMPOSTED** cow or chicken manure or your **MATURE** garden compost. If the soil is not loose/grainy, add peat moss and those pesky leaves you've been raking (except live oak or magnolia – they don't decompose easily).

Till your mixture into your soil (or use a garden fork for the strong of back without a tiller). Pull out any roots or weeds as you go. Your next step, unless you want a strong crop of spring weeds, is to put out a cover crop **OR** cover your garden with black plastic (which will solarize those weed seeds). Or, you can cover your gardens with a thick layer of leaves.

The next planting time is in February. In our planting zone you can plant asparagus (crowns), beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, Swiss chard, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion sets (make sure you get the short-day variety – not at Wal-Mart, Lowes or Home Depot – they usually sell the wrong type – Dixondale Farms is a good source. You can also plant English peas, Irish potatoes, radish, spinach and turnip – greens and roots.

Next month I'll talk about some other amendments to your garden which will also be organic. I try to stay organic with my food sources. Which is easy to do when it comes to fertilizing. Not always easily accomplished when it comes to pests.

Kathleen Woodby



Ann Gilmore's Silly Winter Challenge....

Directions: *Everyone over 40 years old should have a pretty easy time at this exam. (If you are under 40 you can claim a handicap.) This is a History Exam for those who don't mind seeing how much they really remember about what went on in their life. *** Get paper & pencil and number from 1 to 20. ****Write the letter of each answer & score at the end. Then before you pass this test on, put your score in the subject line. Prize to the top dog!!*

1. In the 1940s, where were automobile headlight dimmer switches located?
 - A. On the floor shift knob.
 - B. On the floor board, to the left of the clutch....
 - C. Next to the horn.
2. The bottle top of a Royal Crown Cola bottle had holes in it. For what was it used?
 - A. Capture lightning bugs.
 - B. To sprinkle clothes before ironing.
 - C. Large salt shaker.
3. Why was having milk delivered a problem in northern winters?
 - A. Cows got cold and wouldn't produce milk.
 - B. Ice on highways forced delivery by dog sled.
 - C. Milkmen left deliveries outside of front doors and milk would freeze, expanding and pushing up the cardboard bottle top.
4. What was the popular chewing gum named for a game of chance?
 - A. Blackjack
 - B. Gin
 - C. Craps
5. What method did women use to look as if they were wearing stockings when none were available due to rationing during WW II.
 - A. Suntan
 - B. Leg painting
 - C. Wearing slacks
6. What postwar car turned automotive design on its ear when you couldn't tell whether it was coming or going?
 - A. Studebaker
 - B. Nash Metro
 - C. Tucker
7. Which was a popular candy when you were a kid?
 - A. Strips of dried peanut butter.
 - B. Chocolate licorice bars.
 - C. Wax coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water inside.

8. How was Butch wax used?
- A. To Stiffen a flat-top haircut so it stood up.
 - B. To make floors shiny and prevent scuffing..
 - C. On the wheels of roller skates to prevent rust.
9. Before inline skates, how did you keep your roller skates attached to your shoes?
- A. With clamps, tightened by a skate key.
 - B. Woven straps that crossed the foot.
 - C. Long pieces of twine.
10. As a kid, what was considered the best way to reach a decision?
- A. Consider all the facts.
 - B.. Ask Mom.
 - C. Eeny-meeny-miney-MO.
11. What was the most dreaded disease in the 1940s and 1950s?
- A. Smallpox
 - B. AIDS
 - C. Polio
12. 'I'll be down to get you in a _____, Honey'
- A. SUV
 - B. Taxi
 - C. Streetcar
13. What was the name of Caroline Kennedy's pony?
- A. Old Blue
 - B. Paint
 - C. Macaroni
14. What was a Duck-and-Cover Drill?
- A. Part of the game of hide and seek.
 - B. What you did when your Mom called you in to do chores.
 - C. Hiding under your desk, and covering your head with your arms in an A-bomb drill.
15. What was the name of the Indian Princess in the Howdy Doody Show?
- A. Princess Summerfallwinterspring
 - B. Princess Sacajawea
 - C. Princess Moonshadow
16. What did all the really savvy students do when mimeographed tests were handed out in school?
- A. Immediately sniffed the purple ink, as this was believed to get you high.
 - B. Made paper airplanes to see who could sail theirs out the window.
 - C. Wrote another pupil's name on the top, to avoid their failure.
17. Why did your Mom shop in stores that gave Green Stamps with purchases?
- A. To keep you out of mischief by licking the backs, which tasted like bubble gum.
 - B. They could be put in special books and redeemed for various household items.
 - C. They were given to the kids to be used as stick-on tattoos.
18. Praise the Lord , & pass the _____?
- A. Meatballs
 - B. Dames
 - C. Ammunition

19. What was the name of the singing group that made the song 'Cabdriver' a hit?

- A. The Ink Spots
- B. The Supremes
- C. The Esquires

20. Who left his heart in San Francisco ?

- A. Tony Bennett
- B. Xavier Cugat
- C. George Gershwin

ANSWERS

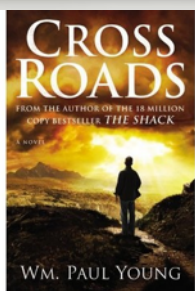
1. (b). 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (a) 5. (b) 6. (a) 7. (c) 8. (a) 9. (a) 10. (c) 11. (c) 12. (b) 13. (c)
14. (c) 15. (a) 16. (a) 17. (b) 18. (c) 19. (a) 20. (a)

SCORING

17- 20 correct: *You are older than dirt, and obviously gifted with mental abilities. Now if you could only find your glasses. Definitely someone who should share your wisdom!*

12 -16 correct: *Not quite dirt yet, but you're getting there.*

0 -11 correct: *You are not old enough to share the wisdom of your experiences.*



*Good
Read!*

Anthony Spencer is a selfish, mean-spirited man who has only one real “goal” - winning. This obsession has cost him his family, friends, peace, and health. He is not a likable person. However, events (God) steps in and allows Anthony the chance to see how his decisions and actions have affected other people as well as the garden of his soul. In the course of the story, Anthony comes to see how material “winning” is not all it is cracked up to be. Anthony learns that he is at the crossroads of change.

I enjoyed reading this book - it is not as personal as “The Shack”, and (as with Paul’s other books) it has a slow start. However, once you get into the character, it really becomes a thought-provoking read. I’d recommend it to anyone who feels the need for forgiveness and developing a deeper relationship with God.

LINCOLN, by Stephen Spielberg, is an excellent movie! This 2-1/2 hour movie is centered on Lincoln’s push to get the 13th Amendment passed before the Civil War ended. We learned a lot from this historic movie - that the Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves, but did not guarantee their continued liberty once the Civil War had concluded. For this reason, Lincoln felt compelled to pass the 13th Amendment before Lee surrendered. The movie shows a different side of Lincoln - we see the back-room debates, the “politicking” that was required to ensure equality to all people. We were surprised to learn that many northern states did not want to ratify the 13th Amendment (we assumed all northern states were supportive). Great acting - deeply stirring. Highly recommended!!

Our daughter invited us to see THE HOBBIT with her in early December. Since we are big J.R.R. Tolkien fans, it did not take much persuading. We started out a bit apprehensive, thinking the movie would not meet the same quality standards as “Lord of the Rings” - but boy, were we wrong! The known characters (Frodo, Bilbo, Gandalf, the Elves) make enough appearances to create a seamless transition. The only disappointment was that the movie ended mid-action (there will be a “part 2” in the next few years). You can bet we’ll be lined up to see it!