

St. Mary's Messenger

November 2012 * Vol 2, No. 11



Bring
your pledge
cards on In-
gathering
Sunday, Nov.
18th!



Now Thank We All Our God, with Hearts and Hands and Voices...

This November, our parish family has much to be thankful for. We are loved by our Creator, we stand united with one another, we are blessed with our Priest-in-Charge, we are financially strong, and we have "hearts, hands, and voices" to carry out the Lord's work in our community.

Mary Shares:

This week I had a real "eye opener" gratitude experience that I want to share with you. It taught me that there are two sides to thankfulness - and that gratitude gives grace to both the giver and the receiver. I never really was aware of that until this past Tuesday.

That afternoon my phone rang after a hectic day dealing with school issues that ranged from grades to shoes in a toilet. The person on the other end of the line was a former staff member with whom I had truly enjoyed working several years before. After exchanging a few pleasantries, Cori told me she had called to let me to know how thankful she was to have worked with me. She went on to explain that one of the major reasons she had left our campus was that some key people at our school had consciously created a hostile environment that she eventually found overwhelming. Unfortunately Cori's description matched my impressions and memories of those years and we talked about that for a bit.

However, what floored me was when she said that my positivity and perseverance really inspired her. She added that she knew that several staff members were quite open about trying to sabotage efforts to keep a "children first" focus on our campus.

WOW - I about fell out of my chair! I never knew that my actions during those years were positively remembered or recognized by anyone. Cori's courage in calling to share her memories was truly a "first" - and something I will always cherish.

What have I learned from this call? That showing gratitude blesses the giver and the receiver. That I want to be more like Cori - intentional in my words and actions...and that living this way will help me to "Thank...our God with hearts, and hands, and voices".

We must all keep open for a call of thanksgiving - because we never know when it will happen!

We are Thankful for...

...the saints who have blessed our lives, and all our loved ones and

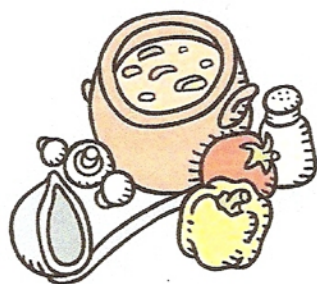


friends who have gone ahead of us. **We will**
celebrate their lives on All Saint's Day on
November 4th.

*Join us for the
Annual Episcopal Church Women's*

TACO SOUP LUNCH

featuring a
Baked Goods & Crafts Sale



**Friday, November 9th
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

\$7⁵⁰ per person

**Taco Soup/chips, Cornbread, Dessert, Drink
Dine-in * Carry-out * Delivery**

To purchase tickets call 512-556-5433

**St. Mary's Parish Hall
At the corner of 4th & Chestnut Streets**

*Proceeds to benefit local charities that are
supported annually by our ECW*

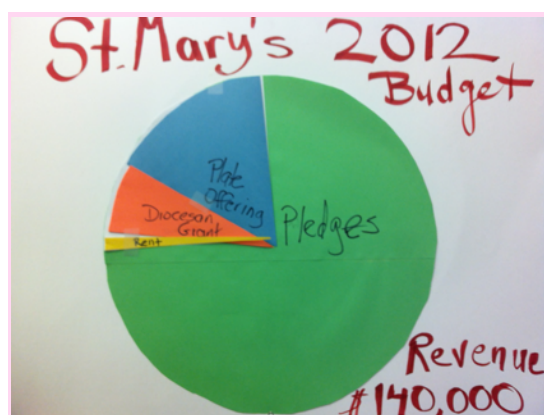
Rev. Susie Says...

Thanking God for our Gifts to St. Mary's Capital Campaign Update.

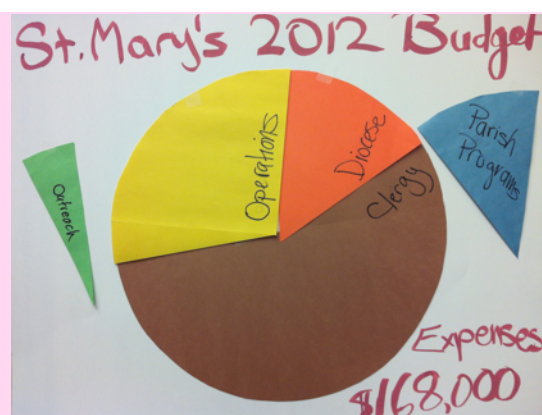
You may remember that some time ago the Vestry decided to use money from our savings account to buy the empty lot across the street and to repair the Sanctuary. After these projects were done, they set a new 3-year goal - to rebuild the savings account. This is known as our "**Capital Campaign**".

\$35,000 was pledged by one parishioner if matching funds were provided by a certain deadline, and with only hours to go, the matching funds came in, so the fund immediately had \$70,000.

Parishioners were asked to make a 3-year pledge to the Capital Campaign and give 10% up front. Some parishioners took advantage of the 3 year option, while others decided to fulfill their pledge in less time (2-years, 1-year, or one lump sum). Right now, the fund has roughly \$79,000 in it, and more is pledged to come in over the next two years.



A Summary of St. Mary's 2012 Budget



Revenue

This pie chart shows where each part of our 2012 revenue (money coming in) comes from. The total amount that comes in to St. Mary's is \$140,000.

Of that amount, "Pledges" make up about \$102,000; "Plate" (money that is not specifically pledged ahead of time) is estimated to be \$25,000. "Diocese" represents a \$10,000 grant that was given to us for youth work; this grant ends in 2013 so it won't show up on the "revenue" column in the future. Finally, we receive about \$2,000 for "Rent".

Expenses

We use revenue to pay expenses. In 2012 St. Mary's total expenses are projected to run \$168,000 as follows (figures rounded for simplicity): \$40,000 for "Operations" (utilities, lawn mowing, stamps, copier contract...), \$25,000 for the "Diocese" asking (assessment and mission), "Clergy" costs of \$76,000 (salary, insurance, supply clergy, pension).

These costs by themselves total \$141,000 (\$1,000 more than our projected revenue).... but we still have more costs to pay. Outreach runs \$7,000, and parish programs is another \$20,000.

How have we dealt with this overage? We've covered these costs by taking money from savings and by not funding Outreach or parish programs. We no longer have a full-time rector - instead we have a 3/4 priest-in-charge.

Good News

We are in a strong, secure financial position, overall. We are not in any debt, and we have plenty of savings. We can GIVE THANKS that our buildings are now in great condition and costs are dropping.

Invitation

Please come to the first Wednesday night Supper, Nov. 7th, where your questions will be answered in depth.

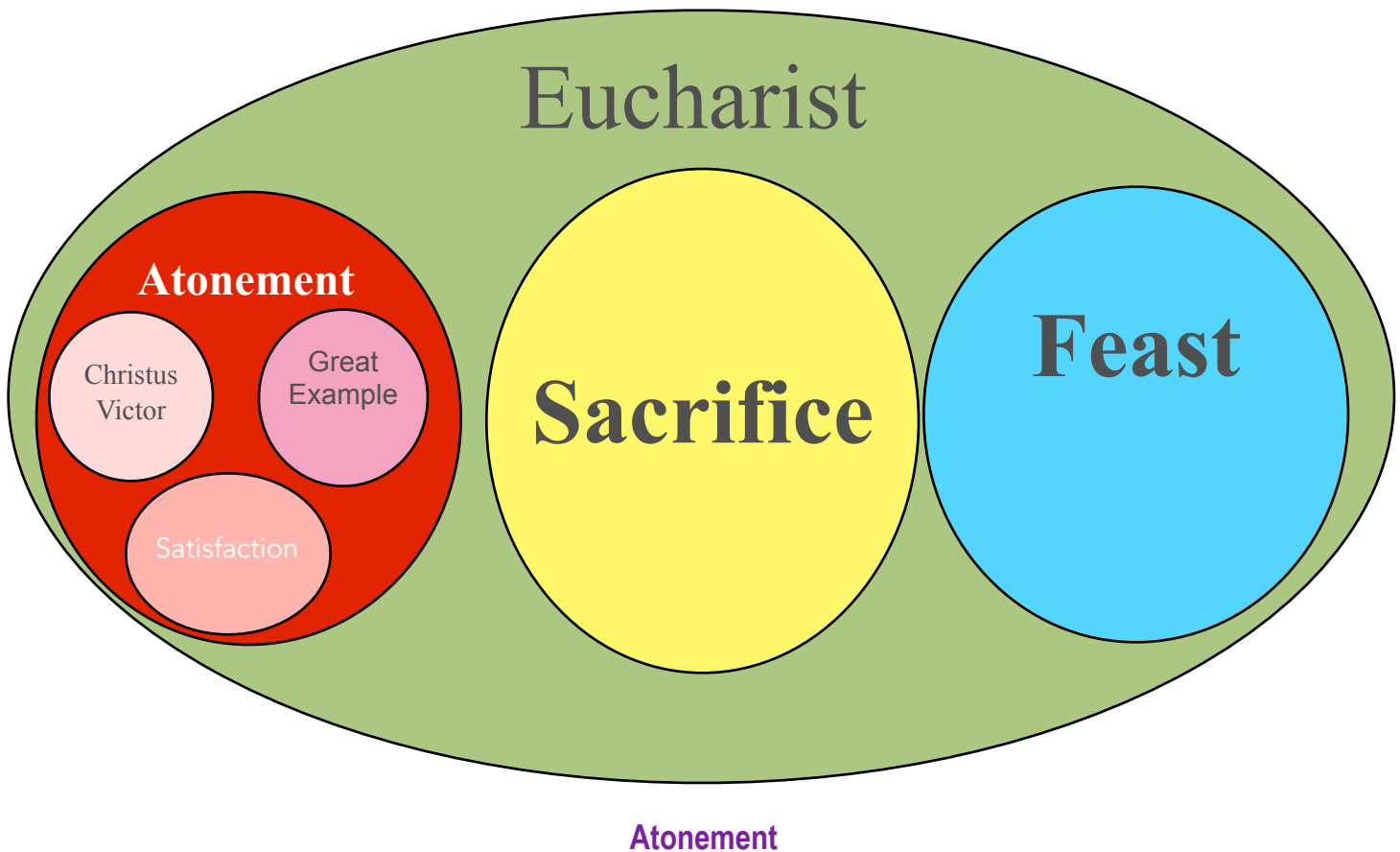


EUCCHARIST

by Mary Raring-Hart

Rev. Susie has recently taught some amazing classes on the Eucharist. These classes, which are held at 9am in the Hirst House every Sunday, have included bible study, field trips, discussions, and stimulating Q&A sessions. I'll try to summarize some of what we learned

For instance, we learned that 'Eucharist' is a Greek word (ευχαριστία) which means "thanksgiving" (*WOW - that fits this month's newsletter theme!*). This thanksgiving gives us a way to put Christ's life, death, and resurrection into perspective; it can be studied from three different angles: atonement, sacrifice, and feast.



Most of us think of atoning as saying "I'm sorry", but it really means more than that. Rev. Susie told us that the idea of "atonement" encompasses three different theories: "Satisfaction Theory", "Christus Victor" (or "Ransom Theory"), and "Great Example".

Satisfaction Theory: Think of a courtroom and you get an idea of how this theory works. The "bad guy" stands before a judge and after considering the evidence, the judge issues a consequence and the bad guy goes to jail. When we break God's law, we have to go before God and pay for our "crimes". However, instead of us getting the punishment, Jesus comes along and serves the time for us - basically freeing us from "prison".

Christus Victor: The Israelites and early Christians wanted a Messiah who would be a “warrior king” - someone who would conquer their enemies and form a new kingdom (like Rambo or The Avengers”). Jesus “fought” - but not the way they wanted, and not against the enemy they identified. Instead of seeing Caesar as the enemy, Jesus recognized the Devil as the ultimate cause of oppression and sin. Rather than sword-fighting the Romans, Jesus changed the world order by teaching his followers to love and serve others. Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross actually fooled the Devil into thinking he (the Devil) had conquered Jesus - by causing him to die. When Jesus rose on Easter this proved that Jesus was the real victor because he conquered death (and the Devil). When we celebrate the Eucharist we celebrate Jesus’ defeat over death (and the Devil). We know we have life after death because Jesus has already won the war.

The Great Example: Rev. Susie explained that in the beginning God made a perfect world and that humans made choices that made the world imperfect. Even the Ten Commandments and prophets were not enough to fix the evil that was set in motion by Adam’s original sin. However, Jesus - as the “Perfect Adam” - is like a reset button that provides a “cosmic do-over” (new beginning) for all of creation.

Sacrifice

When Jesus came along he loved us a LOT - so much that he knew that the lambs and doves would never be enough to offset the debt that we owed God for the bad things we did (and still do). He willingly offered himself to God as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Since he is doing the offering, that makes him not only the High Priest but also the sacrifice - like we read about last Sunday in Hebrews 7:27 (*“Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself”*).

And, since God loves Jesus so much, God regards Jesus’ act as a unbelievably high “payback”. As a result, we do not sacrifice lambs and doves any more (we can’t “top” Jesus’ sacrifice of himself). When we celebrate the Eucharist, we do it as a remembrance of the sacrifice that Jesus made because he loved us so much.

Feast

Food is important - it gives our body the minerals and vitamins we need to stay strong, energized, and healthy. Eating together is also important - we re-charge our spirits and minds, reaffirm relationships, and identify ourselves as a common “family”. People usually celebrate happy times by eating together. The Eucharist is our chance to come together as God’s people, to say “thanks” to Jesus for all he has done for us (the atonement piece), and to remember the sacrifice he made.

Well, that’s it in a nutshell (at least the main points that I remember). I hope I got the gist of Rev. Susie’s lessons - and take responsibility for any mistakes in this summary. *See you at the next lesson!!*



Happenings around town...

Jack Newsom

is back from Germany where he made a hand-held portable organ and learn how to use it. We look forward to hearing some really amazing Sunday music - maybe a recital????



Mystery Toadstools!

Bill and **Sharon Archie** found these weird looking toadstools in their garden. Does anyone have any idea what type of fungus they are? Are they mushrooms or toadstools? *Curious minds want to know!*

MAUREEN ADAMS HOSTED SPACE CAMP AT HER SCHOOL (WEST WARD ELEMENTARY)



5th Grade students (and Tom Hart) were lucky enough to go to NASA and tour the facility. They made a replica space station and space vehicles at West Ward. Nationally-renowned speakers visited classrooms and talked to students about dinosaurs, traveling in space, careers, and other topics.

Suicidal Deer Jump In Front Of Parishioner's Cars

Poor **Cheryl Ann Wendele** and **Molly Lesley**! They both have had bad luck with deer recently while driving. Although they were badly shaken up and their cars were bashed in, reports say that both drivers managed to survive these accidents.

We did some searching and found similar tips listed by Michigan state Troopers and the eHow website:

- Stay aware, awake and sober.
- Heed deer crossing and speed limit signs. Signs are placed in known deer crossing areas to alert you of the likely presence of deer.
- Deer are herd animals and frequently travel in a single file line. If you see one deer cross the road, chances are more are waiting.
- Be alert for deer, especially at dawn and dusk. Almost 80 percent of all car-deer crashes occur on two-lane roads between dawn and dusk.
- Do not rely on gimmicks like flashing your high-beam headlights or honking your horn to deter deer.
- If a crash is unavoidable, do not swerve. Brake firmly, hold onto the steering wheel and bring your vehicle to a controlled stop.
- Pull off the road, turn on your emergency flashers and be cautious of other traffic if you leave your vehicle.
- Report the crash to the nearest police agency and your insurance company.



Libby Bluntzer's Work!!



Kelsandra's Pumpkin Cinnamon Rolls



Prep Time: 30 Minutes

Cook Time: 30 Minutes

Ready In: 1 Hour 50 Minutes

Servings: 12

"Pumpkin rolls, made like cinnamon rolls but with pumpkin pie spice, are glazed with a cream cheese frosting. What could be better for fall?"

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4 cup warm water degrees
- 1 package active dry yeast
- 1 (5 oz) can evaporated milk
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 1 (15 oz) can pumpkin
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 5+ cups flour
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1 1/4 cups brown sugar, packed
- 2 tablespoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 (3 oz) package cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/4 cup milk

(www.allrecipes.com)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Pour the warm water into a large mixing bowl, and sprinkle yeast over the water. Allow to stand until the yeast begins to form a creamy foam, 5 to 10 minutes. Stir in evaporated milk, white sugar, pumpkin, olive oil, and egg. Mix until thoroughly combined. Mix in 2 teaspoons of pumpkin pie spice, then add about 5 cups of flour, or as needed to make a stiff dough. Turn the dough out onto a floured work surface, and knead until smooth and elastic, about 8 minutes. Dough will be slightly sticky. Form the dough into a ball, place into an oiled bowl, cover with a cloth, and let rise in a warm place for about 45 minutes. (The dough will rise, but it won't double.)

P2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.

3.

Punch down the dough, and roll it out to a rectangle shape on a floured work surface until it measures about 18 inches wide and 26 inches long. Brush the dough with 1/4 cup melted butter. Mix the brown sugar with 2 tablespoons of pumpkin pie spice in a small bowl, and sprinkle the mixture evenly over the dough. Roll up the dough the long way, and pinch the seam closed, then cut the dough into 12 equal-sized pieces with a sharp knife. Lay the rolls into the prepared baking dish.

4.

Bake in the preheated oven until lightly golden brown, 30 to 40 minutes.

5.

While the rolls are baking, mix vanilla extract, cream cheese, 2 tablespoons of melted butter, confectioners' sugar, and milk together to make a glaze. Spread the glaze over the rolls as soon as they come out of the oven.

CALENDAR EVENTS

November 3

Crafter get-together for ECW

November 4

ECW 9am, Remembrance (at both services)

November 7

Potluck and Stewardship Q&A

November 9

Taco Luncheon

November 14

Vestry Meeting

November 17

Trash Pick up

November 18

Pledge Cards due

November 26

His Kids



A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words...





Take a break from the holiday hustle & bustle and join us in the piney woods for a weekend retreat. Give your family the gift of great memories as you remember the reason for the season and enjoy all that Camp Allen has to offer!

Packages

Family (2 adults & 2 children)	\$465
Couple (2 adults)	\$335
Additional Child	\$65
Single Adult	\$200

Rates include two nights hotel lodging, meals, and most activities. A fee is required for activities marked with an (*). Children 2 and under are free and guests over 14 are charged as adults. Check-in starts at 5:00pm Friday and check-out is at 1:00pm Sunday.

Activities

playing in the snow
archery
canoeing
horseback riding*
holiday arts & crafts
guided nature hikes
gingerbread houses
wagon rides
moon jump
scavenger hunt
campfire & smores
christmas caroling
photos with santa
pony rides*

ladies tea
massages*
snake classes
bird classes
train rides
zip line
giant swing
rock climbing
orienteering
fishing
discovery dome
stuff & fluff animals*
skeet shooting



To register or to learn more, call
866.334.CAMP or visit us at:

campallen.org

