

## **STEWARDSHIP REPORT (DATA AS OF 1/23/2010)**

Friends, you have certainly answered our call to step up and give with extraordinary generosity this year. Earlier this month, the vestry had agreed to accept Stewart Tucker's and my conservative estimate of \$245,000 as the 2010 pledge goal. As of last night at 7 pm, we received several additional pledges that have brought us to \$245,670 -- just over our goal. We are extremely grateful that you have heeded our call, particularly in this year where we have mounting buildings and grounds expenses and simultaneously must attract a stellar rector to our parish. There are about 10 pledges that have not come in at this time. We estimate that we may receive an additional \$5-7K from those outstanding requests. This is money that will be very important if we are to fund the key projects that are proposed for the coming months.

To date 102 pledges have arrived. The majority of us have increased or held steady in total pledge dollars. Many of us who decreased did so with trepidation and did so due to true hardships such as job or financial losses. We appreciate everyone's willingness to continue giving and truly hope that for those of us who have had a tough year, the coming months will brighten and we can all recover from this time of difficulty.

I have greatly enjoyed this work. You have shared many great ideas on the spiritual and practical aspects of pledging. This sharing has helped me clarify my views on supporting the church both financially and through volunteering. It has also allowed me to get to know many of you better and to work with an outstanding team on the vestry. Particular thanks Ariel Acuna for his wonderful talk, to Stewart for partnering up in this endeavor, to Margaret for being such a fun and encouraging presence, to Mary Green, whose input on the planning side was invaluable and to Norman Budge our accountant and Denise Flanagan who shared a number of pizza slices with me and kept the administrative side rolling.

To dig a bit deeper into the details, last year at this time 89 pledges had been received totaling only \$227,000. So, we are significantly ahead. That being said, our needs are far greater this year and everything you have done to get us to a

balanced budget is hugely helpful given the challenges and opportunities we face in 2010.

To give a final point of comparison: this year just over 10% pledged \$5000 or more, almost half pledged \$1000-\$4999 and just under 40% pledged under \$1000.

Many times the smaller pledges are the hardest financially to give. So together, each individual's sacrifices and efforts are recognized in the pledges, and we send up our collective offering as but a small token of our gratefulness to God -- both for this beautiful and caring parish and for the blessings of this life. It is in everyone's coming together in this demonstration of caring and hard work that we demonstrate our faithfulness and continue to help St. Mary's thrive. Thank you again for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia de Peyster, Stewardship Chair