

THE HERALD

Volume XL, Issue II

February 2014



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"Begin With Thanks"

I was reading Paul's Letter to the Philippians recently and got caught up in one of the early verses of the first chapter: ³ *I thank my God every time I remember you,* ⁴ *constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,* ⁵ *because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now* (Phil 1:3-5). With that in mind, it seemed a great time to consider a spirit of thanksgiving and to share with you some of what you and I have to be thankful for.

Let's return to our Christmas season. First, I want to thank the congregation and Vestry for the many expressions of love and support that were offered to both Judy and me. The Christmas gift the Vestry presented on behalf of the congregation was a gracious sharing of our many blessings, and I thank you. Additionally, Judy and I are so grateful for the many cards and gifts. We feel truly blessed to share the Christmas season with St. John's. And before we leave the season, I want to lift up with thankfulness our Children's Christmas program. Their program set the mood for the celebration of Christ's birth. As soon as we left that program we moved to our Christmas Eve and Morning worship services. Once again our church was filled with people seeking to hear "good news of great joy." As one who is always touched by the incarnation of God, I thank you for inviting and sharing Christmas with your church family and friends.

Then it was New Year's. Who can enter a new year without being thankful for the opportunities to make changes and perhaps get it right this time? With resolutions and hope, we begin a New Year with thanks and hope that the New Year brings blessings from God and joy in life. May we be hopeful and thankful for God's gifts and presence with us each day!

On January 16th, a new Vestry moved into

their roles as committee chairs at their first meeting. Each and every year, I am reminded of the great talent, skills, and experience that exists in our congregation as the Vestry goes about the work of the church. Our Vestry members approach their work with dedication and faith and truly seek to serve our Lord and you with the decisions they make. We can all be thankful for the commitment of these folks to Christ and you. Coming up on February 8th, our Vestry will hold a retreat to look at our ministry and goals for 2014. I ask for your prayers as we seek God's direction for our church in the coming months. All new, existing, and former Vestry members deserve our thanks.

And right around the corner, just a month away, is Lent. I am always thankful for the gift that Lent brings, for the Lenten season asks us to contemplate the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem where he faces a trial, crucifixion, death, and then a resurrection in order to redeem humanity. Taking the journey with Jesus truly makes us thankful.

Hopefully, as you have been reading this letter you have begun to feel great thankfulness for your life, the people in it with you, and the very touch of God you experience living each day. There are so many things and people to thank God for – I hope you will spend some time this year with a spirit of intentional thankfulness. Look for times when you can say "Thank You," and then say it often. Like the Apostle Paul, I thank my God every day for each of you and for our church, praying that we will be the place where people experience the risen Lord through us and find in us a home where they become family.

Thank you for sharing in the Gospel with me.

Pastor Butler +

Lee-Freyschmidt Circle

Lee-Freyschmidt Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 12th, at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Barbara Siegling (105 King Street, Charleston).

Tovey Circle

The Tovey Circle will meet at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 13th, at the home of Brenda Brannen (113 Queen Street, Charleston).



The Ladies Sewing Society

Organized 1825



The Ladies Sewing Society will meet on February 9th, at 3:45 p.m. in the Parish Building, beginning with refreshments provided by Becky Courtney. Evelyn Dolven will present the program. Guests are warmly welcomed.

Lutheran Men

The Lutheran Men want to invite you to join us for our February meeting on Thursday, February 27 (6:30 PM), as we welcome guest speaker Susan Stephens to St. John's. Mrs. Stephens will share updates on her time with the Charleston International Airport and speak with us about the many issues involved with running such a large and highly visible facility.

Our Lutheran Men invite members and friends, both male and female, to join us. In fact, our men will be bringing their spouse or a date, and we would love to have as many people as possible join us. Because we anticipate a lot of interest, we are asking everyone planning to attend to please RSVP by Monday, February 17, at noon. Use the insert included with the bulletins beginning on February 2, or call the church office, 723-2426. There will be a charge to cover the cost of the meal served that night

Memorial Gifts were given in loving memory of:

Pauline (Polly) Califf Martschink

Peter and Ruth Creticos

Paul Pelland

William Aylward, Deborah Bussey,
Harriett Hutson, Ann Taylor

Committee Meetings

February 3	Worship and Music Committee Meeting	6:30 p.m.
February 8	Vestry Retreat	9:00 a.m.
February 11	History Committee Meeting	10:00 a.m.
February 20	Officers' Meeting	5:30 p.m.
February 20	Vestry Meeting	6:30 p.m.



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

St. John's Vestry met on Thursday night, January 16, 2014, to discuss and conduct the business of the church. The meeting was called to order by President Dan Prickett and opened with a prayer offered by Pastor Butler.

- 1) New Vestry members were present, and introductions were made. It was quickly noted that for some Vestry members this was their first time serving the church in this way.
- 2) Pastor Butler and Dan Prickett then led the Vestry on a tour of the church facilities and explained responsibilities of a Vestry member serving as the manager for the buildings.
- 3) The December 2013 Vestry Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.
- 4) The December 2013 Treasurer's Report was reviewed and received as information.
- 5) Committee Reports:
 - a. The Officers requested that the Vestry meet on February 8, 2014, for a half-day retreat to discuss the goals of our church for 2014. This retreat will take place off-site at the Hendrick BMW meeting room. The importance of attendance at Vestry meetings was also discussed and it was requested that each of us make attendance a priority on our schedules.
 - b. Pastor Butler shared information about the membership numbers of our congregation, average attendance for the year, and that on Christmas Eve we were able to celebrate the birth of our Lord in worship with 337 persons. During Pastor's report we also approved the request from Sarah Kiel to hold her wedding here at St. John's in June, 2014.
 - c. The Christian Education Committee was pleased with the Children's Christmas Pageant and the occasion to honor Mrs. Betty Evans for her many years of teaching in our Sunday School program. Sheila also mentioned the upcoming single service on January 26, followed by the covered dish dinner honoring our 75 year and older members.
 - d. The Evangelism Committee will again have our newly designed T-shirts for sale before and after the single service on January 26.
 - e. The Social Ministry Committee reported that our efforts over Christmas had made it possible to deliver over 100 boxes to the Crisis Ministries Center and 90 boxes to the Senior Center. George Galante is leading the committee in a discussion of criteria to be used in determining the "hows" of charitable giving. The possibility of supper clubs in 2014 was discussed.
 - f. The Vestry thanked Deborah Bussey for coordinating the Christmas decorations at the church, and Deborah shared her thanks to and for the many others who participated to make St. John's the beautiful and reverent place of worship it was for the celebration of the nativity of our Lord.
- 6) There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Financial Update

The Finance Committee provides each month an update of the contributions received in the current year as compared to the amount in the budget adopted by the congregation. The following is the budget to actual comparison for 2013.

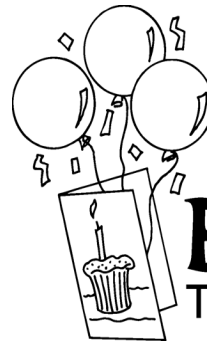
Contributions received	\$ 319,436
Contributions per budget	<u>323,000</u>
Receipts over (under) budget	\$ (3,564)

Congregational Concerns and Prayers

We remember in our prayers: Ed Andersen, Bobby Babson, Judy Greer, Roger Hawkins, Nell Jones, Geneva Kahrs, Betty Lemacks, Eleanor Luden, Ed Rugheimer, Susan Spoon, Margaret Stephens, Cele West, all those who are infirm and recovering from illnesses and our members who have experienced losses of loved ones.

Our Loved Ones Away From Home

We have a prayer list of those members of St. John's and our extended family who are in the military and/or involved in this current military situation. When filling out your blue attendance card, please add the names to it and indicate "military," and we will include your loved ones on our prayer list. Presently included are: Derek Bean, Alex Bedenbaugh, Lt. Joseph Gibbons Clark, Mark Evans, Captain Justin Golden, Ryan Hanson, LTC Jeffery A. Jones, Jason Jordan, John Lesemann, and Christopher Osgood.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

February 3	Amy Butler
February 6	David Sines Thomasson
February 7	Billy Lesemann
February 8	Amanda Littlejohn Kirk Poulnot Lilly Wertan
February 9	Claire Moore
February 10	Mary Lou Coombs Hank Tolley
February 11	Thalia Gerard Chris McDonough
February 13	Denise Haberern Sarah Moore
February 16	Douglas Kilgour
February 18	Rosemary Allen Gregory Pitman
February 19	Louie Koester, III
February 24	Edgar Rugheimer
February 25	Marianne Albrecht Mark Jordan
February 28	Ronnie Fulmer Miles Martschink, Jr.