

May 6, 2009

Dear Members of Good Shepherd,

We have completed our Stewardship Campaign for the 2009 calendar year and now report the results and the status of our parish finances during these times of both generosity and economic stress.

TOTAL THANKS TO JOHN MEEK

But first we wish to give our heartfelt thanks to John Meek, the head of our efforts this year. John has served in many capacities in this parish during key but unexpected times. He served as Junior Warden as we began a capital campaign. He was Senior Warden when the Rector became ill. He agreed to lead our 2009 Stewardship Campaign before the bottom fell out of the financial market. In all these capacities he has been magnificent, but now we thank him for leading us all. We also are deeply appreciative to all who have been such cheerful givers.

STEWARDSHIP GOALS

For the first time in many years, we undertook an every member canvas of the congregation. Vestry and other parish leaders were asked to personally visit every member of the congregation. The objectives were to build relationship in the Church community, to inform people of our mission, programs and financial needs, and to discuss with the members of the congregation sound principals of faithful giving. Our economic goal was to raise \$630,000. To date we have received 123 pledge cards for a total of \$472,667. Another \$13,057 has been received as gifts towards this campaign. Last week, in an effort to conclude this campaign, a letter was sent to an additional 90 persons who have shown support in the past or are new to the congregation hoping that they might also participate.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

The General Endowment (as distinguished from the Restricted Endowment) for the Parish is \$310,000. \$130,000 per year from this fund is needed annually to service the interest on the debt for our recent capital improvement project. In addition, we must make the first of five \$200,000 installment payments on the principal balance of our note on or before October 1, 2009.

The Diocese has asked the parish to pledge 9% of their budget (\$50,000) to them. The Vestry has pledged \$29,000 and given permission for the other \$21,000 to be raised through a special appeal to the congregation. Our privileges and duties as members of the Diocese have been outlined for you by Gordon Tayloe on the cover of your last parish newsletter. At this point, we have received two unsolicited \$500 pledges to the diocese. Another \$20,000 is needed to help us fulfill this obligation.

The Vestry faces some difficult decisions this summer if our financial trend continues. Some of our costs are fixed and simply must be paid. Cost cutting measures such as freezing salaries and benefits and instituting better cost control measures are being implemented. The major portion, over 70%, of our mission and ministry are driven by personnel and program costs. This is the next logical place to make adjustments. If we do not act we could face as much as a \$90,000 deficit. Furthermore, this deficit does not include the \$130,000 interest on the note and the \$200,000 installment payment that will be made this year.

We are very fond of the Church of the Good Shepherd and have greatly enjoyed the vibrant Spirit that has been apparent over last few years. **We are committed to living our mission “to know Christ and make Him known with joy, faith and service.” We are also committed to living within our means, “paying as we go” so to speak.** Our conviction is that the God of all peace will be with us. **Our challenge is not to be profitable but faithful during these difficult times.** Our hope is that we have the courage to meet the challenges ahead with grace.

If it be your will, we invite you to revisit your pledge to the parish. The first additional \$20,000 will help us fulfill the diocesan request. Any money above that will help us continue our ministries while living within our means.

Robert Davenport
Rector

Randy Noe
Senior Warden