



The Eagle

January 2014

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, December 24th Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Family Service & Holy Eucharist

8:30 p.m. Carol Prelude

9:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, December 25th Christmas Day

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 29th 1st Sunday of Christmas

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The St. John's Office will be closed on December 25th & 26th and January 1st & 2nd.

Wednesday, January 15th **Annual Reports Due**

Sunday, February 2nd **Annual Meeting**

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Brunch & Annual Meeting immediately following

Godly Play will NOT meet on January 5.

Godly Play will meet on January 12, 19 and 26.

Godly Play will NOT meet on February 2.

The **Youth Group** will meet in the commons on January 5 and 19 from 6-8pm.

Rooted in Tradition / Branching Out in Love



*Thank you so much to all those who pledged to the 2014 Fundraising Campaign.
As of December 11th, 2013, we have received **111 pledges** for a total of **\$326,418**.*

Sandy Allende Donahue
Jon & Betty Amy
Pat Annis
Karen Atallah
The Bailey Family
Priscilla Bain
Dick Barman
Patty Barrett
Jac & Kathie Basden
John & Pequita Behrndt
Joanna Benskin
The Bigelow Family
Roger Blake
Jim & Sandy Bodenmiller
Barbara Bower
Nancy Bowker
Sue Bracey
Donovan & Jane Brand
Karl & Nancy Brandt
Steve & Lloyd Brewer
Randy & Georgia Brist
Mary Ann Burns
Greg Buzzard, Hilary Cooke, &
Family
The Steve & Sally Byrn Family
Mary Campbell & Joe Jackson
Shirley Curry
George & Nancy Dandrow
Mary Lou Davis
April Delancey

The Dell Family
Brien & Becky Dick
Mark Dolfini, Jennifer Baker, &
Family
Robert & Sue Eichhorn
Gayle Ennis
Jessie Farrington
Dotty Gist
Sally Goeke
Hilary & Rosemarie
Goonewardene
Alissa Goudswaard
Sally Hastings
Ed & Carol Helgerman
Jim & Barbara Hess
Marylin & James Howland-Ross
Susan Hockings, Joe Kappock,
& Family
Kristine Holtvedt
The Hulen Family
Ginny Hull
Dean Hunter
Arliss & Linda Jeffries
Molly Jennings
Bruce & Kathy Johnson
Dorothy Jones
Heidi Kauffman & Family
The Kealey Family
Kaye Kleine-Ahlbrandt
Robert Kurtz & Family

Robert & Carol L'Homme
Jack & Dorinda Kueberth
Paul & Peggy Lawson
John & Deb Lindenlaub
Anne Lommel
Jim & Shirley Marciniak
Marc & Judy Loudon
Franklin Mason, Jacqueline
Marina, & Family
Michael Martin
Caryl Matthews & Don Nead
Gaye Matthews
Greg & Maggie McClure
Bill & Olynn McInerney
Katie McMillin
Roy & Fran Meeks
Denny & Patti Mellor
Linda Meyer & Don Pilcher
Bob & Sylvia Miessler
George Moore
The Mosier Family
Alison Moss
Courtenay Murakowski
The Murawski Family
Heather Johnston Nicholson
James & Patti Noone
Bradley Pace, Katie Elder, &
Family
Kenneth & Jackie Paar
Amy & Ted Paget

Barbara Penney
Raymond Polstra
Barbara & Doug Powell
Jo & Paul Roberts
Bonnie & Stuart Robertson
Jim & Carolyn Roth
Phillip & Terri Sanger
Giff & Mary Scarlett
Robert Schoenhals
Annie & Sven Schreiber

Charlie Shook
The Rachel & Steve Shook
Family
Bob & Helen Slagel
Ellison & Marian Smith
Peggy Smith
Dennis & Adelia Sorge
Cynthia Stauffacher
Martin Stob
Antonia Syson

Josh Thomas
Jane Thompson
Amy Van Epps
Joseph & Jane Vanable
Tom Brush, Whitney Walton, &
Family
Ross & Charlene Watson
Mary Weeks
Jackie & Vaughan Weston

Your generosity will fund St. John's ministries—the worship and music, the formation, the parish life, the administration and support, and more—that help make this a vibrant parish community. Because of your generous support, we should also be able to fund some new initiatives that will position St. John's for a bright future.

Thank you so much for your generosity to the St. John's community.

*If you have not pledged your financial support for 2014, there is still time.
Contact Sven Schreiber, the chair of the Stewardship & Fundraising Committee,
at sven.c.schreiber@gmail.com for more information.*

From the Rector

By Bradley Pace

My favorite book of late has been NT Wright's book *How God Became King*. In the book's preface, Wright, who is the retired Anglican Bishop of Durham, England and a prolific author, says that all along he has had a hunch that "there is a fundamental problem deep in the heart of Christian faith and practice as I have known them. This problem can be summarized quite easily: we have all forgotten what the four gospels are about" (ix). This is a striking admission, but I confess it is one I also share. I suppose that is why I liked the book so much. Wright was able to put into words what had been vague in my own mind for quite awhile.

What are the four gospels really about, then? Sure, they're about Jesus, but what exactly are they trying to say about him? Sure, they're about God, but again, what are they trying to say about God? Sure, they are about the Church and its origins, but what exactly do they tell us about the Church's life and how do they resource its mission?

In January, I would like to invite you to discuss Bishop Wright's book with me. Have we forgotten what the four gospels are about? If so, what are they really about? And, if Bishop Wright is correct, what does this mean for our Christian faith, for the Church, and for the world?

Our sessions will meet on the Sundays in January—January 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th—between the 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services on Sunday mornings. Grab a cup of coffee and join in. No preparation is necessary, but if you are interested in the book *How God Became King* by NT Wright (HarperOne, 2012), it is available from most major booksellers. For more information, contact me at the church office at 765.742.4079 or by email at bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org.

United Thank Offering Report

By Mary Louise Davis

A new year of giving thanks for all God does for us, our families, towns, country, world—we could have an almost endless list of thanks for God's gifts and life!

Join UTO in giving your praise and thanksgivings to help others. Blue boxes are available in the Commons on the credenza by the kitchen. The fall ingathering of UTO offerings totaled \$423.43 as of 12/4/13. Our next UTO ingathering will be in May 2014.

Next Eagle Deadline

The deadline for submissions to the February Eagle will be Monday, January 20. Email to eagle@stjohns-laf.org (preferred) or place items in *The Eagle* mailbox on the porch.

January Book Discussion

By Mary Campbell

In 1972, British veterinarian James Alfred Wight published *All Creatures Great and Small* under the name James Herriot. To his surprise more than anyone's, this first book became a series—*All Things Bright and Beautiful* (1974), *All Things Wise and Wonderful* (1977), and *The Lord God Made Them All* (1981). After that came a film of *All Creatures Great and Small*, a BBC television series by the same name, and a BBC docudrama, *Young James Herriot*. Wight died in 1995, though James Herriot lives on! Wight's original practice site has become a thriving tourist attraction.

What about the stories of James Herriot stimulated such lasting popularity? Read one or all of the books and see what you think! Or, perhaps you have read all the books and seen all the television shows, so you already know what appeals to you.

In any case, come to the January 22 meeting of the St. John's Book Discussions for our "James Herriot Evening." We should have a lively discussion, and Dorothy Jones may have a scene or two from the television series for us. We meet in the Commons at 6:30. Enter through the garden door.

Year End Giving Retirement Accounts

By Sue Bracey, Investment Committee

As 2013 comes to a close and you review charitable contributions consider a gift to St. John's through your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). The Internal Revenue Service requires that you start taking a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) once you reach age 70½. These RMD's are subject to state and federal income tax. The American Tax Payers Relief Act of 2012 allows direct gifting from your IRA to a charitable organization through December 31, 2013. The gift counts toward your RMD and is excluded from federal taxable income.

When you consider your RMD think St. John's Endowment Fund, The Operational Subsidy Fund or one of the programs at St. John's. Your gift will benefit you tax wise and touch the lives of others in numerous ways now and for the future.

You will need to contact the provider of your IRA for forms to contribute the RMD directly to the charity for federal tax benefit or ask assistance from your accountant or financial planner.

Another way to fund your pledge or to give to St. John's is through a gift of securities. By giving securities, e.g. Stock, that has appreciated significantly by gains in the market in 2013, you would avoid paying capital gains, a benefit to you and help for St. John's. You can initiate this type of gift by discussing it with your financial planner/advisor or broker. Any transaction must be done before the end of 2013.

Thank you all for your consideration and support of St. John's.

November at the Food Pantry

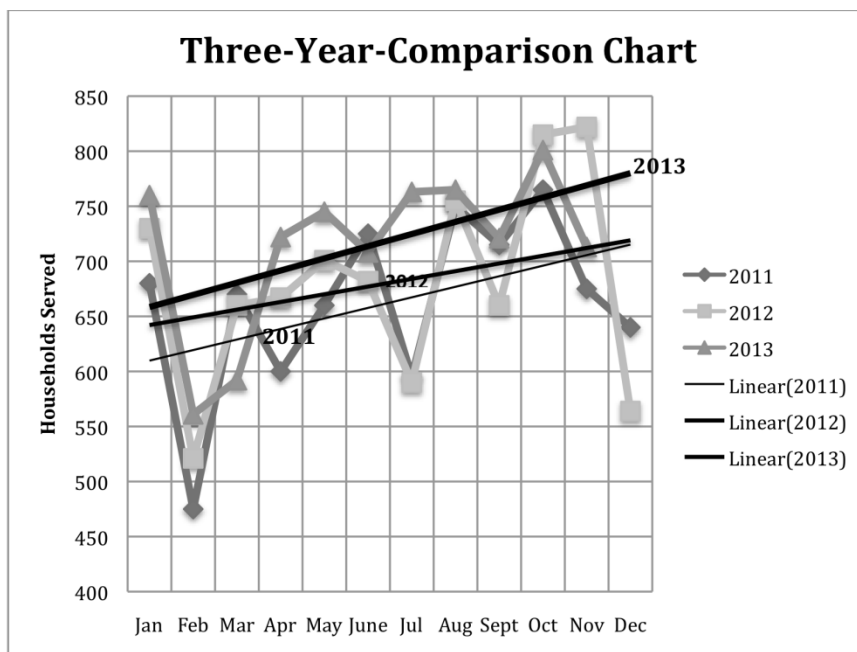
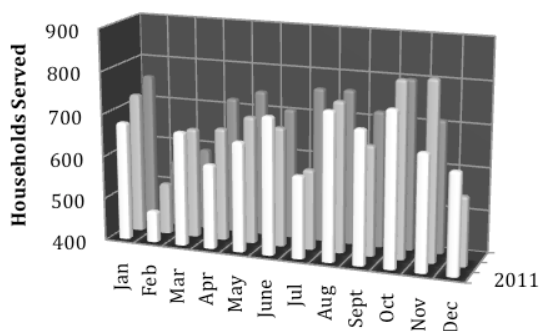
By Steve Starks

In November, 2013 your Food Pantry served 713 Households representing 2,358 people. We purchased 4029 pounds of food and had 2,748 pounds of food donated. Our Government Food Commodity (TEFAP) was 2738 pounds and included lots of Shredded wheat, Red Kidney beans (to complement the garbanzo and pinto beans already in good supply,) and canned fruit (apricots, pear halves, cranberry juice concentrate). In December we received another whopping 5663 pounds of goods which included more canned fruit, but more importantly quarter chicken legs (these birds must have been huge because the quarter was almost 5 pounds) and shelf stable milk. It also included 288 64oz bottles of cooking oil, which is already one-quarter gone.

Meat finally became available through Food Finders, so I ordered 100 pounds, no make that 500 pounds, oh what the heck make it 1000 pounds of frozen meat at .19 cents per pound. When someone asked if we had enough freezer space to handle all that meat I had to honestly say "I don't know. But it is pretty cold outside so I'll find someplace!!" Actually we split it into two 500-pound orders and it fit nicely in our freezers with room to spare. Where else could you get a half-ton of meat for under \$200?

I have included a graph which compares the last three years month-by-month. People often ask me if we are serving more or less people and up to now I had no idea. Thanks to Ken Paar and one of our other volunteers, Leanna Giltmeier, we now have the data to compare. It may be hard to read or understand, and I will publish another view of it next month, but for me the most interesting trend is shown by the three Trendlines which

Three-Year-Comparison Chart



show the growth over a one-year period. It gives us a better view of how the years compare to each other than if we compared only month-by-month, which we will do in next month's Eagle.

The Trendline shows a steady increase of need over a one year period in each of the years. It definitely shows a higher usage rate in 2013 than in 2012 and 2011. This is a sign that rather than becoming more independent because they are back to work, etc (as some had predicted would happen as we moved away from the Recession), more people are looking to subsidize their food supply by coming to the Food Pantry.

(Note: The graph does not include December, 2013 yet, and that will bring the line down lower, but I do not anticipate that it will be less than Dec, 2012 which had very low usage compared to 2011.)

LUM Report

By Nolie Parnell

Juliet, a shy fourth grader from Glen Acres Elementary School, occasionally peeked at us, but preferred to have her head buried in her mother's jacket. Juliet wanted to say thank you for helping her but nerves got the best of her. Instead she nudged her mother signaling it was the matriarch's responsibility. No easy task since Juliet's mother spoke very little English, but Juliet's older sister stepped into the role of interpreter and we learned of Juliet's story.

Juliet struggled academically during the third grade. She fell behind in all her subjects, most likely because she lacked the one tool which helps in all course work: the ability to read. She finished the third grade behind her peers and did not meet the benchmark in reading. Juliet participated in the LUM sponsored "5th Quarter", a summer learning retention program for at-risk kids. By the end of the summer she had improved her reading comprehension skills to match those of her Glen Acres peers and she made gains in her math skills as well. Juliet is now participating daily in the LUM after school program which focuses on homework and preparation for the next school day. Her teachers have noticed the difference and have expressed how happy they are Juliet is succeeding.

As a new member to the LUM Board of Directors I spent an evening with Joe Micon, LUM Executive Director, and the other newbees (there are 3 of us) participating in orientation. I listened, and hopefully learned something though I must admit my eyes glazed over occasionally, about the bylaws, articles of incorporation, and personnel policies. I reviewed LUM's organizational charts and financial reports. We toured the Program Building, the Ray Ewry Youth Center & LUM shelter, and the St. John's/LUM Food pantry. I learned my three major duties as a LUM board member: 1) facilitator of communication between LUM and St. John's, 2) be an active member (i.e. show up for meetings) and vote on policies, and 3) oversight of the executive director, including hiring and firing. I hope the third charge (especially the process of firing) is a task I will not have to undertake.

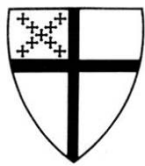
The greatest lesson of the evening was one which was not directly said: Lafayette Urban Ministry is an impressive organization. It is an ecumenical organization of 39 church congregations working daily to follow Jesus Christ, to live life in his example. There are programs to provide individuals basic necessities which allow them to assimilate back into society and no longer live on the periphery. Other programs assist individuals and families who struggle daily with food insecurity. Additional programs have the mission to help support at-risk children by bridging the academic gap which occurs with children of low-income households.

What I enjoyed most during my long evening was meeting Juliet and her family. Juliet's achievement through the involvement of LUM's programs is the embodiment of Christ's work. As I listened to Juliet's mother, through her interpreter, proudly tell us how well Juliet was performing in school, I witnessed what every parent wants: an opportunity for their child to reach his or her potential. The parental desire to know our children are safe, happy, and prospering has no economic, racial, or ethnic boundaries. Programs such as the ones in which Juliet participates provide the tools for success. Success which not only strengthens Juliet but through Juliet's successes, strengthens the entire family.

January 8 Lunchtime Concert

By Michael Bennett

Often we think there is little to do after the Christmas holiday, but St. John's monthly lunchtime concert series will continue with two of our well-known local musicians: Mary Heller & Margot Marlatt. The piano and cello duo will be performing the Haydn/Piatigorsky "Divertimento," de Falla/Piatigorsky "Danse de la Frayeur" and the Lalo "Chant Russe." "My teacher, Denis Brott, was a Piatigorsky student and this connection has always been a strong influence for me. I hope to honor both my teacher and Mr. Piatigorsky in a small way at this performance," writes Marlatt. I hope to see you there!



St. John's Episcopal Church

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Rector

The Rev. Dr. Bradley Pace

Associate Rector

The Rev. Dr. Hilary Cooke

Sunday Associate

The Very Rev. Robert L'Homme

Parish Administrator

Teresa Lohrman

Director of Music

Michael Bennett

Building Use Coordinator

Bill McInerney

Eagle Editor

Alissa Goudswaard

St. John's/LUM Food Pantry Director

Steve Starks

St. John's/LUM Food Pantry Co-Director

Gayle Ennis

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Brewer, Sally Byrn