

St. James Episcopal Church Newsletter

February 2010

By: Anne Aloia

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Well, it's our second newsletter. Nancy Thompson has agreed to help me with the newsletter but I wasn't organized enough yet with what was going in it. A few people have given me things to share with you this month.

CHURCH NEWS –

- See reverse side from Wayne on how St. James has managed to go green.
- Sunday school at St. James- The successful Sunday school program for pre-school to second grade [directed by Lisa Miceli], has recently been augmented with a program for older children. This program, coordinated by Steve and Mariellen Schomaker includes children from grades 3 to 8. This hands-on program will strive to be a fun and exciting way to learn more about what goes on in church each Sunday. Children will participate more in church, while gaining a solid understanding of prayers, readings, and the flow of the Sunday service. The teachers for prayers are Steve and Mariellen; for readings Howie Burr and Jean-Marie Foisie; and for church service instruction Wayne LePard.
- Appreciation Night- On Friday, **April 23rd**, we will be celebrating ourselves. A few people will be thanked for all they do or have done for us at St. James. If you have someone you'd like to thank, we will have a board to pin cards on with your message on it. Some people from our past are also being invited to this night with us. It will begin with a pot luck supper at 6:30.
- **Spring Dance**- Tentatively, Sat. May 15th has been selected as the date for our next dance, as long as our hall and the band are available.

FINANCIAL NEWS –

- Keep doing your part to keep us paying our bills on time. Thank you!!

WOMEN'S GROUP INFORMATION

- The women's group has enjoyed a night of knitting and a brunch together. More knitting nights to come. If you are a woman and you go to St. James, you are a part of the women's group.
- Crafts Nights- Making things for the fair, Sept.29th, Oct.13th and 20th.
- **Wed. March 24th** –old photos night. Bring about 5 photos of yourself in a white envelope, they will be placed on a table and we can guess who it is. Let's see some of those hairdos and outfits we used to wear. Pot luck supper at 6:30, too.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

In every moment there's a reason to carry on.

February Birthdays – Marci Crandall 2/10, her husband Chris 2/27 and daughter Katie 2/10.

BY: Wayne LePard

We sure are! And you can help!

Over the past year or two we have been looking into how we consume energy in the Church and Parish Hall. And the findings are startling! In fact, the changes that have happened from our efforts amount to one or more equivalent pledges in the money saved on our annual operating costs.

What did we do? (1) We shut off the heat in the church from the day after Christmas until Easter – saving about \$500 – We can do this because there are no pipes or water in the church. (2) We reinsulated (added 7-8 inches of insulation) the entire attic space of the parish house for \$1,100 – all of this money was donated – saving about 25% of our oil consumption (400 gallons) or about \$1,000 per year. (3) We turned back the thermostats in the large hall, small hall, and entryway hall. These moves are included in the saving of part 2. (4) Several open or poorly insulated areas of the Parish Hall (the pull down stairs, the space over the fan in the big hall and the area over the chair storage closet) were filled and insulated – these were included in part 2.

You can help to keep this green movement and savings going by: (a) turning back the thermostats to 55 - 60°F after using the Parish Hall. (b) keeping the double doors closed between the large hall and the hallway – this is because the hallway is on a separate zone that's usually warmer than the large hall and leaving the doors open makes the hallway heat the large hall. (c) close the door at the top of the stairs – if the thermostat is set back – again to prevent the hallway from trying to heat the upper hall. Again, just as you would at home, keep the door to the Parish Hall closed as much as possible – often, people prop this door open with a rock or other object in the cold weather for convenience while the heat escapes from the building.

The next “green” program we are considering is the hot water from the faucets. We don't have a shower, dishwasher or laundry in the parish house but run our furnace to maintain hot water if we need it. In the winter the furnace runs to heat the building so that hot water for the faucets comes from the furnace which is already hot for heating. But the furnace also runs throughout the summer just to heat water that we essentially don't use! This uses about 200 or more gallons of oil – for something we don't use! We can save essentially all of this oil (200 gallons) by installing instant hot water heaters under the kitchen sink or ahead of the hot water supplies to the bathroom sinks and the slop sink in the back room, and then turn the furnace off for the summer. Again preliminary estimates are that the cost of installing instant hot water will be the same as the savings for the first summer!

So with all of the “green” moves, the buildings will be operating with approximately 38-40% less oil than before, or about 600 less gallons of oil per year. This totals more than \$1,500 off of our expenses with oil at \$2.50 per gallon and proportionately more when the price of oil increases as it has in the past.

Future “green” projects include a study of additional window insulation and replacing the electric furnace in the church with a gas unit.