

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Established in 1867

Stewardship Tide 2011

Dear St. Andrew's Family,

We've all heard numerous messages about the benefit of financial support for our church. They're all still true. This year, we ask you to give thanks for another scarce resource: your time.

The Bible has no general word for "time", nor are there specific words for the categories of "past", "present", or "future". The Hebrew word most commonly translated as "Time" is *ayt*, which really refers to the instant or duration of time during which something occurs (1 Samuel 9: 16; Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8; Ezra 10: 13; 2 Chronicles 24: 11). Another word, *'olam*, refers to immeasurable time, whether the past (Ecclesiastes 1: 10) or future (Micah 4: 7). While it does not mean "eternal" in the sense of without end, it does point to a length of time beyond human comprehension. Another common word, *mo'ed*, means "fixed time"-- a time designated for a specific occurrence like a festival (Leviticus 23: 2, 4). In other words, *time in ancient Israel was not conceived as an abstract dimension but primarily as related to specific happenings whether of short or long duration.*

We live in a culture driven by chronological time measured in nanoseconds and worship a God whose primary desire is to spend eternity with us. How do we reconcile this dichotomy? By observing the Sabbath.

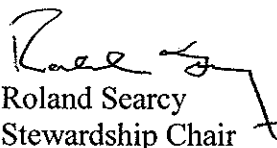
This stewardship season, we invite you to pray and reflect on how you spend your time with God and all facets of God's creation. "As Time Goes By" will be our theme. Come see the movie *Casablanca* on September 30 and notice how time is used by characters in the film. Consider how you keep the Sabbath—a critical part of your spiritual health that enables you to give of yourself, including your financial resources.

Thank you for your kind generosity.

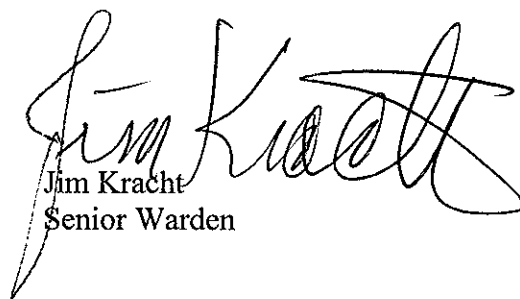
In Christ,



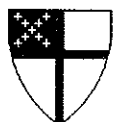
The Rev. Dr. Sean Cox
Rector



Roland Searcy
Stewardship Chair



Jim Kracht
Senior Warden



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October 2011

Dear Parish Family,

As your Treasurer, I help our congregation's dreams come to fruition. I see how Christ is known and made known. I love seeing our gifts translated into helping members of our church and the community; lives are transformed every day.

Our facilities are well maintained. This year has seen many goals achieved: the full retirement of the parking lot debt, replacing the roof, renovation of the Parish Hall and kitchen, installation of the fire suppression system throughout all the church buildings and repainting the sanctuary.

Your generosity made it all possible.

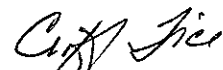
In partnership with your Vestry and Rector, I also help plan and monitor the annual budget. Thanks to your generosity and frugality of the Vestry, Rector, and Staff, we are scheduled to end this year within our projected budget.

The year ahead will be filled with opportunities to know Christ and make Him known. Our first mission trip will be funded outside of the church budget. We seek to increase our voluntary Mission Share Funding to the Diocese of Texas and meet our ongoing expenses. We have one more year to go in our Capital Campaign to finish projects mentioned above.

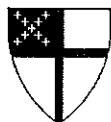
The Biblical tithe of 10% of our income remains the standard for all of us. As one proverb of stewardship states: God sets the bar high. We are invited to jump as high as we can to clear that bar and to then be at peace in the knowledge that, when we can't jump that high, God sent Jesus to make up the difference. As you prayerfully consider your pledge to the work of the church, take another step in your stewardship journey by partaking in the Biblical tithe. You'll be glad you did!

Thank you for making my Treasurer ministry a joy and honor. Please respond generously and help our congregation realize more goals in 2012.

Faithfully yours,



Cliff Rice
Treasurer



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