

Faith, Vision, Legacy - It's About Time

Capital Campaign News from St. Augustine's In-the-Woods

October 2008
Volume 1, Issue 2

The Mission of St. Augustine's In-the-Woods Episcopal Church is to "worship God, witnessing to Jesus Christ by serving the community and the world in which we live, all through the power of the Holy Spirit."

Upcoming Campaign Events

Month of October
Enrichment Gatherings

November 1
Prayer Vigil
7:00AM - 7:00PM

November 9
Sunday School Art Day

November 22
Advance Commitments
Gathering

December 7
All-Church Banquet and
Children's Party
Commitment Worship

January 4
Celebration Worship!

Enrichment Gatherings Begin

Beginning October 14 and running through November 2, there will be a series of Enrichment Gatherings offered at the homes of Saint Augustine's parishioners. Enrichment Gatherings are small group meetings for all members of our congregation. In addition to being an opportunity for fellowship, these Gatherings will give us a chance to receive and discuss information about our annual ministry budget and our building projects.

Meetings will be led by a church member, and representatives from our Building Committee and Vestry will be present to help answer questions. A video presentation and handouts with information will also be offered.

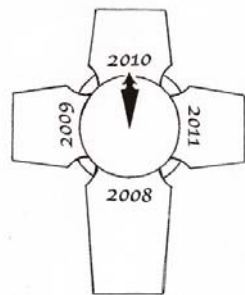
Everyone is strongly urged to attend. No financial commitments will be asked for or received at these meetings.

Discussion of our *Faith, Vision, Legacy - It's About Time* campaign will focus on the growing ministries of our church, and the opportunities we have to support them.

With the addition of JR Lander, Wendy Close and Carol Foster, our Christian Formation, Parish Nurse and Music programs have been enthusiastically taken to new heights. To ensure continued growth, we have made a bold commitment to fulfill our vision to expand our facilities in support of these ministries. With God's help and with all of us pulling together...we can do it!

Please sign up (in the Narthex) for one of the Gatherings, or respond, "Yes, I will" when invited by a caller.

We need everyone's participation!



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*"You will be enriched
in every way for your
great generosity,
which will produce
thanks-giving to God!"
(2 Corinthians 9: 11)*

Sacrifice and Generosity

Giving and Growing in Faith

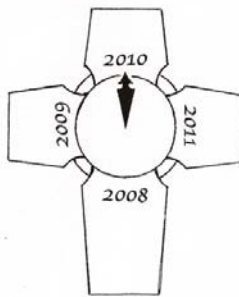
When we think about our giving to the church, have you ever noticed how easy it can be to think we can't possibly do any more than we are doing already? When we take the time though to be still with God, we realize how much He has given us: **all** of our time, **all** of our talents, and **all** of our financial resources.

Before any of us can make a good decision about our true ability to support our "*Faith, Vision, Legacy - It's About Time*" capital campaign we need to look inside ourselves. We need to pray, and we need to listen for God's guidance. What is God calling us to do? How would God have us respond in discipleship and commitment to the ministry of our church?

Do you remember the first time you entered through the doors of St. Augustine's? Do you recall experiencing the inspirational beauty of the sanctuary? Can you remember being welcomed by the warm Christian fellowship and touched by the love demonstrated for God and one another in worship? Each of us is truly blessed in so many ways by the ministries of our church, and each of us is grateful to Jesus Christ for the joy of living in His love and grace. We thank Him for the opportunity to worship and grow in faith in such an amazing church.

"Faith, Vision, Legacy - It's About Time" is a three-year campaign. Confident in God's assurance to provide for us, each of us is encouraged to make a financial pledge that will challenge us to grow in faith and reliance on God. Armed with hope and faith, we are asked to stretch ourselves in our giving over the three-year period above and beyond our regular gifts to St. Augustine's.

As you consider how God has blessed you in your life and through the ministry of our church, please consider with joy what you can do for St. Augustine's. We can all do all things in Him who strengthens us. With all of us working together, we will indeed fulfill our mission to strengthen St. Augustine's.



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*"For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has."
(II Corinthians 8:12)*

The Joy of Generosity

By examining God's word for us in Scripture, we learn that joy that comes from generous giving, rather than through the accumulation of things or the abundance of material possessions. In Corinthians 8 and 9, St. Paul makes it clear to the Corinthian people that their giving to the church in Jerusalem is just as vital to their own spiritual welfare as it is for the physical welfare of the Christians in Jerusalem.

St. Paul emphasizes three important concepts:

- 1) Give voluntarily and give first to the Lord. *"God loves it when the giver delights in the giving!"*
- 2) Give sacrificially according to your ability to give. Paul commends the Macedonian Christians for giving *"according to their means, and even beyond their means."* While not everyone can give the same dollar amount, everyone is called to the same level of sacrifice in their giving.
- 3) Trust in God to provide for your needs. *"The one who sows (gives) sparingly, reaps sparingly."*

Please prayerfully consider how you can give joyfully and generously to the ministry of St. Augustine's. Your investment will not only build our physical facilities, but also will inspire your personal growth in faith and dedication. The words of Jesus remind us, **"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."** (Matthew 6:21)

Not Equal Gifts - But Equal Sacrifice

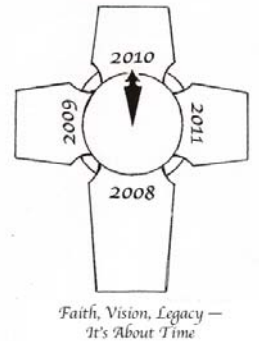
The first part of the phrase means there will be diverse dollar amounts dedicated through our campaign. No comparisons are made among what each of us is willing to give for our church. Sacrificial giving is the act of making sacred or setting apart our financial resources for God. It means to dedicate that which is precious to us for that which we value deeply, the future of our congregation and its ministries. The Scriptures make it clear that God measures our gifts not in relationship to others, but rather in relationship to the degree of individual sacrifice based on how each of us has been uniquely blessed. Does this mean we should sell everything we own and give it to the campaign? No. We should, though, be willing to give up anything God asks of us. This attitude allows nothing to come between God and us.

*"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required."
(Luke 12:48)*

Bible Studies Focus on Faith, Discipleship, Stewardship

As part of our Capital Campaign we will be having a series of four shared bible studies on four consecutive Sundays: October 19 & 26, and November 2 and 9. All but November 2 will be in place of the sermons at each of the two Sunday services. November 2, being All Saints Sunday, will have a regular sermon at both services, with the bible study at Forum time.

On November 1 - All Saints Day - we will be having a twelve-hour prayer vigil at Church. The vigil will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and we ask that you sign up for a minimum of one hour. You can, of course, stay for longer! We are hoping, however, to have as many people as possible be present at sometime during the day.



*"Your word is a
lamp to my feet,
and a light
for my path."
Psalm 119:105*

St. Augustine's In-the-Woods Episcopal Church
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