

## Filling the Shell!

These last few years we, as a parish, have spent many volunteer hours making our expansion dream a reality. What was once a dream became a scheme, then a drawing, a very large hold, and finally we watched as the shell formed our reality.

Earlier this year we concentrated on raising funds to make interest payments and pay down our long term debt which we undertook to build our new facility.

It is now time for us, as a vestry and parish, to fill the shell. "Filling in the Shell" is the theme the Vestry has chosen for this coming year. All our plans for Outreach, Christian Formation, Worship, Parish Life, Innovation, Pastoral Care, Communication and Facilities will carry this theme as we work to continue our goals which came from revisioning.

Another important part of "Filling in the Shell" is maintaining the shell. We need to financially support this shell and the programs that enable us to fill the shell. This financial support is for the annual operational obligations which are totally separate from the Capital Campaign Funds.

Our annual fixed expenses in 2003 for the "bare necessities" were \$221,329. We anticipate our year end "bare necessities" will be \$201,953. Due to the reduction in our pledge giving from 2003 to 2004, the Vestry needed to make several difficult decisions to cut areas of the budget to offset the reduction in pledges and increase in utilities. Though these were tough decisions we were able to meet our obligations at the same time creating a stable financial basis to move forward.

During the month of October, the 2005 Stewardship Committee will be making several presentations about the financial status of the parish. We offer good news regarding our 2004 year end forecast. We also provide very realistic information about 2005 and ask our parish membership to increase their pledge giving to maintain what we current need.

During these October presentations you will view a pie chart which gives a startling view of our 2004 pledges. The objective of the 2005 Stewardship Campaign is to ask everyone to "step-up" from one level to the next. This "step-up" process will provide the funds we need to maintain the expenses that we must have to take care of our "bare necessities" along with the other important programs that we have previously maintained. We are asking for comments from all about what should be recommended to the Finance Committee and Vestry as "Wish List" items. Some wish items already suggested include funds for an associate rector, increase in our diocesan pledge, and funds for an organ.

Please take the time to listen to these presentations, ask questions, and provide us your comments. For the Vestry to approve a truly workable 2005 budget that provides funds for all those expenses we must have and those that, you, as a parish have told us are equally important we need to increase our total number of pledging units and also the total dollars pledged per unit.

Help us fulfill our goal to "Fill in the Shell"

*Robert Moseley*  
Senior Warden

*Jeanne Murphy*  
Jr. Warden

## 2005 Every Member Canvass

Each year, we ask our fellow members to express their thanks to God by pledging financially to St. Lawrence for the support of the programs we offer and the fellowship we share.

In recent weeks, the Stewardship Committee has been preparing for our Stewardship month of November, when we will ask you to sign a pledge card. The signed card allows the Finance Committee, and ultimately the Vestry, to formalize and approve a budget for the following year.

### *Presentations in October*

Prior to those final steps, however, the Stewardship Committee will be making a variety of presentations during the month of October. We will demonstrate where we were last year financially and how some tough decisions for 2004 got us in a stable position to meet all our obligations that our increased size of space created.

As we approach the 2005 budget, we are being realistic about our fixed and required expenditures. But we will also be asking your help in determining what programs/projects you, our parish family, would like us to strive for in the preparation of our 2005 budget.

Please take the time to listen to the presentations, ask questions and offer comments and suggestions. It is our goal to make the 2005 Every Member Canvass successful in meeting our obligations for 2005 and to provide the necessary funding to achieve those objectives which are also important.

*Jeanne Murphy*  
2005 EMC Chair

## Open House and Dedication

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 30th! That's the day we will formally dedicate our new home. Beginning at noon, our doors will be open to welcome visitors to tour our facility. At 2:00 pm Bishop Persell will officiate at a service to dedicate and bless our new space. And we will follow it all up with a reception in the Parish Hall and installation of a time capsule.



Planning has begun and if you are interested in helping but missed the opportunity to sign up at the Kick-off, please let Barb Lewis know. Or plan on coming to our next planning meeting on October 6, beginning at 7:30 pm in the YAC Room. We will continue to meet weekly on Wednesdays at 7:30, and anyone is welcome to attend. There are plenty of ways to help – helping to “spruce up” the facility, helping with the reception following the service, and helping as a greeter/tour guide are just a few.

Invitations - Julia Karnstedt  
Publicity - Doug Montgomery  
Reception - Ann Leffler  
Greeters - Mari MacDonald  
Literature - Liz Halbert  
Time Capsule - Carolyn Finch  
Facilities - Alesia Gustafson  
Worship - Jim Brown  
History - Betsy Barnett, Paul Finch, Jim Hartshorne

If you would like to help in any way, please talk to anyone on this committee, or Barb Lewis.  
*Barb Lewis*

## Newcomers Brunch — September 19th

We welcomed fifteen newcomers to the brunch hosted by the Invitational Ministry team on Sunday, September 19. It was a great time to get to know each other a little better and learn more about St. Lawrence. Please make a special effort to meet these new members of our parish family—

Valorie Crusey  
 Mike Matson  
 Danny and Erica O'Rourke (and Ellie)  
 Jean and Bob Ostroga  
 Nancy Peterson  
 Dave and Julie Quandt  
 Tim and Laurie Ryba  
 Tim and Leigh VanderMeer  
 and Grace (whose last name we don't have yet!)

### *Nametags*

Thank you to everyone who is wearing our new permanent nametags! I think it is really helping everyone put names and faces together. I originally made nametags for those in Rite 13 and older. I was trying to keep the number manageable while we still were wrestling with a storage design. Many younger parishioners may be feeling left out of the nametag loop so I am happy to make nametags for anyone who wants one. Please sign the sheet that is on the nametag table if you can't find your nametag. And don't forget to drop off your nametag in the basket before you leave. Thank you for your cooperation.

*Liz Halbert*

## Pastoral Care Ministry Team

Well, it's official. Thanks to all who signed up to be a helping member, The Pastoral Care Ministry Team open, and (almost!) ready for business!



For those who didn't get the chance to drop by our booth at the Opportunities Fair, including those who were teaching or otherwise engaged, **THE PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM NEEDS YOU NOW!!!!** The underlying purpose of the PCMT is to provide certain kinds of support for parishioners in times of need, such as the birth of a baby, loss of mobility or stamina, personal or family illness, or loss of a family member or friend. We plan to provide this support by developing a data base of parishioners who are willing to be contacted when needed and asked to assist by providing food or various services or prayer as the needs arise. The PCTM member selects the activities for which he/she will help as circumstances (both those of the helper and the person needing help) dictate.

This is easy to sign up for!! Firstly, you are probably doing some of this already! We are formalizing and coordinating the wonderful resources that we have in our parish. Secondly, you are actually volunteering to be contacted at a future time to provide services that you choose—and even then you can decline if it's a bad time for you: you actually get to feel good about volunteering without having to do anything right away! It's a win-win situation.

Many of you already do some or all of the listed activities. PLEASE, PLEASE FILL OUT A FORM ANYWAY so that you can be included in our database.

Our St. Lawrence family means so much to all of us. Please become a part of our team by filling out the form, below or in the Narthex, so that we can all care for each other.

Thank you so much!!

*BJ Jones*

## Kickoff Sunday

This year's Kickoff was another rousing success! Thank you to everyone who signed up to help the various Ministry Teams. An extra thanks to Sue Montgomery and Anne Malecki for donating extra gifts for our raffle. Now it's time to get to work and "Fill the Shell"!

*Barb Lewis*

## Rejoice!

Sunday, September 12, marked the first full program year in our new space. While last year's construction is done, not all of the interior decorating is complete, and we haven't quite figured out the best use for all of our spaces. In the coming weeks, for example, keep an eye on the old offices (now being used by one of our youth groups) to see the transformation of that room.

As part of our ongoing process of moving in and getting used to the new worship space, the Worship Ministry Team commissioned Ann Malecki to create a beautiful piece of art to hang above the choir risers. The simple word "rejoice" echoed the tone of the day – as we rejoiced to welcome teachers and students to the start of Sunday School classes and celebrated our annual Opportunities Fair. And "rejoice" was a recurring word and theme of our worship that day, as well, repeated both in song and Scripture (most notably, Luke 15:1-10).



This particular piece will hang there through the end of September and then be replaced by another option for the month of October. For October, Ann is working to create a Celtic cross design, based on a pattern from the "Lindisfarne Gospels." Like the more well-known "Book of Kells," this illustrated book of the Gospels was highly decorated by early Christians in what is now Britain – in this case, on the Isle of Lindisfarne (in what is now far northeast England).

Over the course of the coming year, we will try out several options. At times, the art may be a stand-alone object, intended to hang without any other reference to anything else in the worship space. At other times, the piece of art will be deliberately designed to complement decorations in other parts of the sanctuary. The theme may be seasonal, relating to the changing cycle of the church year, or it may be more general.

As part of this process, we hope to create some opportunities for more learning and reflection about the place of art in our space – and about the ways we can more creatively use the whole space itself. If you'd like to be a part of this emerging process, please know that the Worship Ministry Team would welcome your help. In the meantime, please offer a word of thanks to Ann for taking on the creative oversight of this project.

## Help Wanted: Youth Group Leaders

The Sunday School year is underway, but we still need Youth Group leaders. If you've ever considered being a Youth Group leader or a Sunday School teacher, now is the time to step up. If you have already been asked to be a Youth Group leader and wavered at all before declining, please reconsider as the need is great. It can be a fun experience, and the youth of the parish will appreciate it. Please call Tony Wolff or Betsy Rinella if you would like to volunteer. Thank you very much for your consideration.



## Something Old, Something New

The Worship Ministry Team is busy planning for the future as well as the present. We are looking to include as many people as possible in our Dedication Service, on October 30. Bishop Persell will bless the new classrooms, offices, sacristy, garden and other new spaces prior to entering our new sanctuary and presiding over the dedication service of that space.

Thanksgiving Eve will blend something new with something old. We will be worshipping with our Lutheran neighbors from Holy Cross as we have for the past several years but this time we will be the hosts. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 24, as we would like to have a good turnout from St Lawrence.

Advent is still in the planning stages, but we are looking to blend things we have done in the past with some new ideas. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

We are also looking at ways to better support the 11:00 am Sunday worship service with readers, ushers, acolytes, etc. If you would like to be a part of any of these activities, please contact Mell Wishau.

Anyone interested in helping plan any of the upcoming events are also more than welcome.

## Acolyte Training

On Sunday, October 17, from 11-2, there will be a general training session for anyone who is currently an acolyte or interested in being an acolyte. Pizza will be served!!

For more information contact Scott Neifert at or Sue Montgomery.



## Evensong/Potluck — October 3

On Sunday evening, October 3, we will once again offer a service of Evensong at 5:00 pm, featuring a couple of passages of Scripture, an anthem from our choir and a bit of song as well.

Evensong is really nothing more than a sung service of Evening Prayer, according to the form printed in our Prayer Book. It is both a simple service and a rich and time-honored tradition in the Anglican Church, particularly in cathedrals and collegiate chapels. For many Anglicans, Sunday wouldn't be complete without it.

After the service, we'll gather downstairs in the Parish Hall to enjoy a time of friendly fellowship, as we enjoy a "real potluck." What makes this one different from some of our other potlucks is that it will truly be a matter of luck, entirely dependent on what each person brings and how it adds to the whole – no sign-up sheets or assigned dishes! So, come one, come all.



Centering  
Prayer

Centering Prayer is a very old form of Christian Prayer, sharing roots with Buddhist, Muslim and Hindu traditions as well.

Centering Prayer is a simple way to pray. At St. Lawrence the sanctuary will be dimly lit, with only a single candle. Participants should enter in silence and sit quietly. The leader will read a short excerpt, probably from scripture, and participants will have about twenty minutes to sit quietly with God before leaving in silence.

Centering Prayer will be offered at St. Lawrence on the second Sunday of each month, from 7:00 to 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. Please join us!

## CROP Walk, Sunday, October 17th

The CROP Walk is coming! I just learned after walking in CROP Walks for over 20 years what it means: “**C**ommunities **R**eaching **O**ut to **P**eople..” CROP Walk is sponsored by the Church World Service (CWS), an interfaith cooperative providing disaster relief, self-help development and refugee assistance in more than 80 countries around the world.

CWS was founded in 1946. All the organizations in CWS are listed on the CROP Walk envelopes.

CROP Walk is a fundraiser walk to help combat hunger and all it's problems. St. Lawrence has participated in CROP Walk for years. There are a few ways to participate. You could be a walker or you could sponsor a walker by donating money.

Last year, we had six walkers and raised about \$1,000. Let's double that this year! See Cecelia Secor for a sponsor envelope or to find out who to sponsor. It's a great way for a family to spend a Sunday afternoon



## Soup Kitchen

A big THANK YOU for everyone who donated food for the September, 19th Soup Kitchen. All the food was donated by parishioners so none of the food money had to come out of the Outreach budget. A gigantic thanks to Jim Brown for making lasagna for all 95 of our guest.

The next Soup Kitchen date is December 5th. The Friday Morning Bible Study Group is the sponsor for that date. Please see any member of that group to make donations.



*Cecelia Secor*

## Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

There are lots of events coming up for all members of our ECW.

### *Fall potluck*

On Sunday, October 10, at 5:00 pm, the ECW holds its Fall Potluck. Please come and enjoy food, fun, and fellowship during this annual event. Look for the sign-up in the Narthex or posted in the hallway by the office.

### *Bake sale*

Our Bake Sale is on October 24th. Get those cookie sheets, cake pans, and pie plates ready... We need your help. Drop off for all your goodies will be on Saturday, October 23, from 9:00-11:00 am and from 3:00-4:00 pm. Last Springs bake sale was a huge success. Thank you for all your continued support of this ECW event.

### *Shirt sale*

Check out the new denim and khaki colored St. Lawrence button down shirts. Sizes run adult S, M,L&XL-\$30.00 XXL and up \$33.00. All proceeds go to Outreach.

## Lake County United Fall Action Assembly

On Thursday, October 14, St. Lawrence will host the Fall Action Assembly for Lake County United. St. Lawrence is one of the organizing sponsors of this organization and it would be great to have a good showing for the night.

This fall's assembly will be an opportunity to learn more about housing costs in Lake County and how residents can work together to help create affordable housing options for our residents.

Thursday, October 14, 2004  
7:00—8:30 pm

## Our Future in Focus — 2004 Capital Gifts Campaign

After a summer hiatus, I thought it was time to update everyone on the status of the capital campaign. Although our campaign officially ended in May, our work really isn't finished. As of this writing we have gathered \$767,989 in new pledges; however, we still have several parishioners considering their gifts. ***It's not too late to consider a pledge to the campaign!*** If we were unable to contact you during the course of the campaign, and you received a pledge card in the mail, it's not too late to complete the card and return it to church. If you have misplaced your pledge card, or never received one, please contact me, and I would be happy to send you a new one!

We are going to be recognizing everyone who contributed to the building expansion through either our first and/or second capital campaigns. A recognition tablet is going to be placed on the brick wall (formerly the outside wall of the library) opposite the clergy offices. Elizabeth Green and the Memorials and Recognition Committee have been working during the summer to complete this project. The goal is to have it completed for our Open House on October 30th.

Don Halbert will be chairing a Follow-Up Committee which will be contacting parishioners in the future. During the course of the campaign, several parishioners requested to be called upon later this year or early next year. His committee will contact those parishioners as well as set up criteria to continue soliciting capital funds on an annual basis.

*Julia Karnstedt*

## Planned Giving

What has St. Lawrence meant to you, and how would you like to honor your desire to perpetuate the blessings you have received to future generations? Charitable estate planning is a marvelous; some might say magical, way to benefit both the church and your heirs. Better yet, it often can provide benefits, both on a financial and spiritual level to you as well, both now and in the future.

Few donors are aware of the many different tools and ways charitable estate planning can help you reach your goals while being good stewards of what God has entrusted you with. Gifts by bequest, trust arrangements, annuities, securities, real estate, and personal property or income funds are examples of alternatives to cash gifts that may offer many advantages both to the donors and to the ministries you desire to support. Benefits include, but are not limited to: tax savings, income streams, and future financial security to St. Lawrence.

Do you want to better understand the benefits available to you, your heirs and to St Lawrence through a charitable bequest? Stay tuned to this column for our monthly discussion of some of the options and their benefits.

In the meantime, if you are interested in helping us to set up our Planned Giving program, there will be an introductory meeting on Wednesday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library. Questions? Call Carolyn Finch or Julia Karnstedt.

*Carolyn Finch*

### ***An excerpt from Jan Billings' letter to our congregation:***

"On Sunday, September 5th, we had the pleasure of starting the 9:00 service with the singing of Rev. Dr. Victor Gollapalli from Bombay, India. His beautiful voice rang throughout the church in native Indian tongue with the only words we recognized as Alleluia and Hosanna ... His mission for the Diocese is in finding funding to build drinking wells in remote Indian villages where currently women walk 2 hours a day to fetch drinking water. By approaching these villagers with a well it allows the ministry of evangelism during the well digging and for follow-up visits. Please keep his mission in your prayers and he states he will keep our friendship in his prayers. If anyone wishes to reach him, his e-mail is revdvictor@vsnl.com." , Respectfully submitted, Janet Billings. *Please take the time to read the letter in it's entirety, posted in the Narthex, thank you Jan, for sharing a wonderful story of faith and ministry.*