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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
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THE NEWSLETTER OF
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NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
VOLUME 19, ISSUE 15 DECEMBER 29, 2009
SPECIAL STEWARDSHIP EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As we look ahead toward the promise of a new year, and begin to formulate all the resolutions we most certainly will break, we propose a challenge. A challenge to uphold a resolution to make a positive impact in the daily lives of others. Nearly everywhere we turn there is need; from the outwardly visible needs of the homeless struggling to keep warm on our city streets, to the hidden needs of those suffering from alcoholism, depression and hopelessness. Without question, we are surrounded by those in need. We can make a difference. And you can help.

For nearly a century, Christ and St. Luke's Church has upheld its commitment to making a positive difference in our community and in the lives of each and every person who passes physically or spiritually through our doors. Your financial gifts allow us to continue to provide the level of support that so many of our community members and parish family have come to rely on.

Above and beyond our weekly Eucharists, Laying-on of Hands for Healing and Stephen's Ministers, Christ and St. Luke's reaches out to the community to provide much needed resources and support. Imagine a child's joy and laughter while opening Angel Tree Gifts, and the parent's relief over not having to break the news that Santa had forgotten their house this year. Imagine the rest provided during the week between Christmas and New Year's when the floor of Lloyd Hall becomes a warm and safe home for nearly eighty wonderful individuals and families through NEST, the Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team.

And although some needs such as our Angel Tree and NEST programs are seasonal, most are not. Every Thursday Christ and St. Luke's opens our doors to feed nearly ninety hungry men, women and children through our Lunch Ministry. Currently we are in the planning stages for a cooperative ministry with EVMS to host a free medical clinic which we hope to have operational this spring. Countless others are touched – many even internationally – through our wonderful and often parishioner-led programs such as the Friends of Nicaragua medical missions and Congo Seminary support.

Closer to our own parish family, Christ and St. Luke's has its own needs as well. Through our Adult Forum, Education for Ministry and Kerygma offerings we strive to enhance each parishioner's own spiritual journey. Our Children's Worship and Godly Play build a solid foundation upon which the teachings of Christ can be built, and our EYC and Young Adult programs provide an atmosphere where the youth and young adults of the church can find

STEWARDSHIP

As of Monday, Thursday, December 31, we have received 165 pledges in the amount of \$541,330.00.

- At the same point last year, we had 216 pledges for \$627,524.03.
- We have 16 new pledges for \$29,310.00.
- 60 of our households have increased their 2010 pledge.
- 22 households have lowered their pledge.

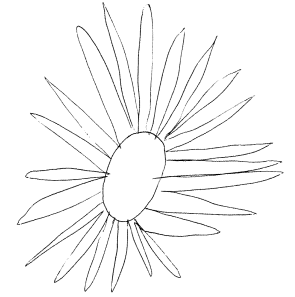
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 Wayland Yoder



(Continued from page 1)
 friendship, acceptance and guidance as they try to find their way and forge their own path through life. Our Caring for Creation Committee has already made an impact on our local environment and this year has been awarded the *Achievement* level of River Star of The Elizabeth River Project.

What we are able to do with the resources we have is both amazing and appreciated, yet there is so much more that we could do. Unfortunately what we most often lack is the financial ability to achieve our full potential. Will you take on our challenge; will you help us make that positive impact? Please prayerfully consider giving monetarily to our mission and ministries. All gifts will be appreciated, and every gift really does make a difference.