



TITHING?

“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.” Malachi 3:8

With this admonition many will say that “tithing” is the “Biblical Standard” of giving. A close look at scripture for a New Testament church reveals that such a standard comes from Deuteronomy or the “Old Law” not by the new covenant of Grace. Clearly Deuteronomy talks about “tithing”: 12: 10-12, 26,27; 14:22-29; 26:12,13 as well as Amos 4:4. But does this make it a stand for Christians?

Jesus says simply to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, visit prisoners of faith, etc. (Matthew 25:34-46). To ignore this way of life is to put oneself in spiritual jeopardy.

Jesus affirms this perspective in the strongest terms. To the “rich young man/ruler” who was inhibited in doing these works because of his need for wealth Jesus said, “*Sell all that you have...and follow me.*” So powerful a message was this that it is recorded in all three synoptic

Gospels: Matthew 19, Mark 10, and Luke 18. So what is the “Biblical Standard” of giving?

The standard, if any exists, is suggested by the ultimate Christian pragmatist, St. Paul, “*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, for God loves a cheerful giver*” 2 Cor. 9:7; also Paul says “*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made*” 1 Cor. 16:2. So, what do we know?

Giving to God and God’s work is an act of faith from the heart. Giving to God’s church should be planned and therefore disciplined. Giving to God’s church should be done considering financial ability and should be done so with a happy heart that seeks to fulfill Jesus’ hope to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, and so on. As the economy makes it hard on every person at St. Anna’s ask yourselves what are you willing to give up in order to give to....?

Church Growth: M2M and THE BISTRO

“Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better.” Richard Hooker, Anglican Divine.

As our little church grows and as times change so will our ministries and those things that we have come to expect as ‘normal.’ One change that is upon is re-defining our Wednesday evening worship and fellowship. For the past three years with deep appreciation we have collaborated

with and received support from the New Orleans Musicians Clinic. We plan to continue this collaboration but as monies become hard to find we will be ending our Wednesday night Mission to Musicians program.

BUT, we will continue and expand our Wednesday worship and fellowship in new and exciting ways.

We will be offering a more contemplative Eucharist and Healing service; music will reflect new and more contemplative music. We hope to feature some of our choir members that offer special gifts of music as solos. We will use more candle light and community gathering prayers.

After Mass we hope to build a program around what St. Anna’s would like to enjoy including: Christian conversa-

THIS OLD HOUSE: Our Journey to Restoration

In our last *Anagram* we put out a call for raising \$50,000 while we fell short of that goal we did raise about \$35,000. As one can easily see those monies are being well spent on the exterior of the church.

Very soon now, the exterior will be returned to its very lovely condition. The message we hope to send is that we care about our church, neighborhood, and city. For our membership we recognize that it is an investment in the continued mission and ministry of St. Anna's Episcopal Church for the next 100 years of service to Christ in community.

When finished the exterior of the "Old House" will be in excellent and sound condition and it should be easy on the eyes as well.

That beings said, your Vestry authorized a loan in the amount of \$35,000 to provide some final work on the exterior and to install, at long last, central heating and air conditioning which will provide not only comfortable spaces for ministry but more efficient use of utilities. We hope to hold an aggressive Capital Campaign in the Spring in an attempt to relieve us of this debt while continuing to raise monies for further

restoration and reconfiguration of the campus for efficient use.

The Sunday School room, which several have worked on is not yet finished. An aggressive volunteer effort can finish this work that will provide a music room for the choir prior to mass; and a wonderful Christian learning center for our little ones on Sunday. In addition this space will be used by partners to host 12 Step meetings, counseling sessions, and small group meetings; like the poetry club. Let's rally and get the room done.

SEE WINTER TIME GOALS FOR AVAILABLE VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

**PLEASE SIGN UP OR CONTACT
SEAN MCLOUGHLIN ASAP AS AN
ANNA VOLUNTEER**



Our House soon to be looking NEW!

The ECW ROCKS!

Over the past several months the Episcopal Churchwomen of St. Anna's, under the able leadership of Deacon Joyce, have hosted several fund raisers.

Several hundred dollars were raised to make improvements to the vesting room so that our Holy Vestments will remain in good condition.

Just this past week at the ECW Bake Sale, we raised over \$400 to contribute to the development of a Youth Center at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center in Robert Louisiana. WAY TO GO!



Good Search is a very easy to use utility that helps St. Anna's earn money in a

very easy way. Hundreds of vendors agree to offer our church a percentage of the sale when you purchase over the internet; companies like Amazon, Best Buy, Crate and Barrel, AVON, and many more in the Good Shop on the web. This is so easy and only takes a second or two. If all of us who shop on line enroll we could well make some serious monies without really trying. Get your friends to enroll as well! The more that are enrolled the more donation funds come to St. Anna's! **Just go to www.stannanola.org and scroll to the bottom of the opening webpage and look for the logo above.**

Church Growth (contd.)

tion; Bible Study; Poetry Readings; Art Showings; and of course a chance to visit and eat some excellent food prepared by Ms. Earnestine Rayford. She will prepare dinners for \$5.00 and we will spend time together. Guests will always be welcomed but we hope that the church family will begin to make Wednesdays at St. Anna's part of our routine. Maybe even a movie night or

two. A questionnaire will soon be circulated to help us plan this.

We will still plan to offer "clinic" and acupuncture for those wishing it from 6:00-



8:00 p.m. This will provide us with a great opportunity to build community and relationship. So, save \$20-30, make new friends and enjoy an evening at **St. Anna's Church and BISTRO!**

The church is changing as we seek deeper relationships and stronger bonds of affection among one another. The **Bistro** opens the first Wednesday in December.

Tithing (contd.)

With the general withdrawal of support from partner churches we must become more self sustaining. Grants are becoming more difficult to obtain and so St. Anna's finds itself in financial strain in the face of on going mission.

While it is tempting to contribute to specific missions, for kids, medical missions, Hispanic missions, etc. Without the Church there is no mission. This is simply a practical issue. The cost of operating St. Anna's Church ranges from \$250-300,000 per year.

In the past our pledging for general operations, which includes support of such activities like the *Awesome Girls*, *Sunday School*, and *Adult Christian Education*, have been supplemented by Mission Grants, and Partner Parishes with pledges equaling about 60% of operating costs. Little of these funds are available to "plug the holes" in

our budget. This is simply stating the practical truth of the work being done here. So, what is your standard for giving?



We hope that you will pray very intentionally about the work of this church., After all,, it is your work being done in community. We hope that you will spend a little time to plan your giving to the

church both for pledge and for specific mission. We hope that you will give not out of a sense of obligation but rather a sense of Joy!

Consecration Sunday

November 22

On **Consecration Sunday** we will offer to God all that we have pledged with Joy! And, we will record for our history the Parish by taking a Congregational photo and individual photos. Mark your calendars and **PLEASE JOIN ST. ANNA'S IN MISSION! It will be a wonderful day in community.**



PROJECT BASED GIVING BEYOND MY PLEDGE

During this time of Pledge Drives and Stewardship we can establish a strong baseline of support from pledges. Our Budget goals provide for about \$250,000 for church operations. Beyond this opportunity to give to God back some of what God has given us....specific gifts may also be made as personal finances and desire dictate - we suggest the following:

The Mike McQueen Mission Fund for Youth: Providing funding for urban youth programs that seek to establish mentoring, dignity, and prosperity of spirit. In particular *Anna's Arts for Kids*, *Peacekeepers Martial Arts*, and *The Awesome Girls*.

The Gordon Maginnis Restoration Fund: Providing on going funding for restoration, renovation, and rebuilding of the church campus.

Rector or Deacon's Discretionary Fund: Normally used for alms giving and assistance for those in need. To date we have provide over \$8,000 worth of aid to St. Anna's parishioners alone.

Flower Guild: Providing flowers in memory of loved ones for Sunday worship (sign up sheet in Parish Hall).

Other ministries include: **Latino Apostolate; St. Anna's Medical Mission, and Grace Childcare Center.**

Food donations are also regularly sought for the Food Pantry. Please no expired food stuffs; canned goods with peel off tops preferred.



ST. ANNA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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***"All are welcomed -none are
shunned."***

www.stannanola.org

Keep checking our website for NEWS!

*Quote of the day: "We may be surprised at the people we find in heaven.
God has a soft spot for sinners. His standards are quite low."*

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

WINTER TIME GOALS FOR A BETTER CHURCH

- Finish the Sunday School Room before the end of Advent. We need five gallons of Antique White paint; rollers and brushes; we need about one day of volunteer time to paint; one day of time to lay carpet tiles; and one day to stock and furnish the room. Those interested in volunteering please contact Sean McLoughlin at spmneworleans@yahoo.com
- Voices needed. As our music program develops more voices are needed. You need not read music and we invite you to try the 'Summer Choir' on for size. Ask Fr. Bill or Jimbo Walsh about our 'Summer Choir.'
- The Esplanade Ave. side of the campus is in dire need of some serious landscaping. Our church campus should be an example and place of tranquil beauty for the neighborhood honoring our Lord. Some things to think about:
 1. A pallet of St. Augustine Grass plus a volunteer crew to place the sod.
 2. Completely rework the garden around the bell in the courtyard with new foundation plantings etc.
 3. Basic foundation plantings around our newly painted building.
 4. A truck load of soil with grading etc. to fill in around the building as needed.
- Altar Servers willing to learn and serve the Lord in our worship service including Eucharistic Home Visitors.
- Adult Christian Education Assistant who will work with Ms. Sharon Martyn and Fr. Bill doing organizing; staging; and tracking programs. Contact with Sharon or Fr. Bill our email addresses and phone numbers are in the directory.
- Increase Sunday attendance during the last quarter by 20 new members. The best way is to invite your friends to join you.