



*Local Stewardship in
a Global World...
What Can One Parish Do?*

St. Edmund's Episcopal Church

A Message from the Rector

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

St. Edmund's has developed a deepening parish culture of generosity. We understand ourselves to be in all ways richly blessed, and we know that God works through us to will and to work for His good purpose. The internalization of such an understanding places us a ways ahead of many of our



co-religionists. Giving by North American churchgoers was higher during the Great Depression (3.3

“Each of us can do one thing, some thing; and all of us acting in accord will make a cumulative difference.”

—The Reverend George F. Woodward III

percent of per capita income in 1933) than it was after a half-century of unprecedented prosperity (2.5 percent in 2006). St. Edmund's seems to be bucking the national trend, even during a period when the phrase “Great Depression” seems no longer relegated to the history books!

Our success in engendering a culture of generosity is, I hope, because we have come to understand Stewardship as something more than funding an annual budget. We believe that our institutional expression of Christian commitment makes a difference in the lives of others...most located near at hand, but also to people very far a-field indeed. One person, one family, one parish church, can have tremendous impact in Christ's Name. There is a greater sense in our generation of the world's interconnectivity than at perhaps any other time in human history, and we have shaped parish ministry with sensitivity for that reality.

Our Stewardship theme for 2009: “Local Stewardship in a Global World... What Can One Parish Do?” reflects a commitment to touch the world together, as God has given us both opportunity and ability.

I listen to NPR in the morning, to the Lehrer Report as I have occasion, and read periodicals as diligently as I can. I'm often left feeling overwhelmed with the world's need and my own limitations,

and I suspect your own sources of news and information leave you with a similar sensation! It comes as reassurance to know that I don't meet the world alone, but together with a couple of hundred people in my congregation, and with many more through our Diocese and larger Church. We are able to tussle through goals and values at the local level, arrive at shared discernments and commitments, monitor and tweak our involvements in ways that elude the solitary individual and impersonal mega-organizations alike. It is together that we make our greatest difference, and it is together that local endeavor can have a global impact.

Pam Payne, Brian Tyler and others in our midst have provided leadership in making the Millennium Development Goals something within our reach. Each of us can do one thing, some thing; and all of us acting in accord will make a cumulative difference. The Millennium Development Goals seem an effective way of talking about our Stewardship of all that God has entrusted to our care. You'll see this year that we offer two Pledge Cards, one for the financial support of the parish, and a second to spur reflection on and shared involvement in the ways St. Edmund's works together. We know you'll think prayerfully about both and act in ways you deem best.

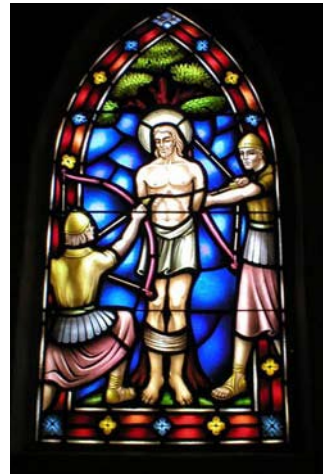
"What Can One Parish Do?" Quite a lot! We form and shape the ways in which many think about and experience God when they come to our worship services, classes, and public liturgies of birth, marriage and death. We offer our young people an environment in which Faith and Intellect are deeply valued rather than mutually exclusive. Together we clothe and provide health care for the poor in Tijuana, support Human Rights work among the oppressed and disadvantaged of El Salvador, provide educational scholarships for Christian kids in Palestine...and in Highland Park. Offer shelter and sustenance to homeless families through Union Station, and abused and abandoned children through Hillside. We have learned generosity and graciousness. We preach the Gospel in word and deed in countless ways. Together... "...for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for His good pleasure." Philipians 2:13

Faithfully yours,

The Reverend George F. Woodward III
Rector

Practicing Our Mission

*O*ur purpose at St. Edmund's is to receive and share God's accepting Grace, challenging Wisdom, and transforming Love. Giving attention to the practice of our Faith, we strive to become honorable people making a useful difference in Christ's Name. We strive to achieve this in many ways.



Through Worship

The core of St. Edmund's parish life is worship. On Sundays we offer several options and everyone is welcome to participate.

- A quiet and traditional service at 8 a.m. in the Chapel
- A Choral Eucharist at 10 a.m. in the Main Church
- A Mandarin service for our Chinese community at 10 a.m. in the Chapel

Occasions for worship are not limited to Sunday morning. The Prayer Book contains daily offices for Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline, and also daily devotions for individuals and families. These services, particularly Evensong, are periodically offered in the Church or Chapel. Holy Eucharist, the Stations of the Cross, and other opportunities for special devotion are offered throughout Lent, on important Feast Days, and at other appropriate times. You may also stop in for personal devotions. Light a candle, kneel, and pray!

Answering Our Call

Through Teaching

At St. Edmund's we offer a variety of opportunities to learn more about the Christian way. For those exploring this dynamic faith, we offer:

- A Sunday School program for our children
- Youth Classes, Formation and Activities for our young people
- Bible studies, Theology courses, and Adult Formation and educational opportunities
- A ministry of teaching and support for our Chinese community

Through Community & Outreach

At St. Edmund's, one of the many ways we strive to "walk the talk" is through the efforts of our Mission and Outreach work, engaged in a variety of local and international efforts.

- Hillside Home for Children
- Pasadena Bad Weather Shelter
- The Kensington Home
- Union Station
- Foothill Family Service
- CRISTOSAL Human Rights Office
- Healing Hearts Across Borders (Tijuana Outreach)
- Millennium Development Goals
- Episcopal Relief & Development
- The Zababdeh Scholarship

Committing Your Time, Talents & Treasures

*A*t St. Edmund's, we talk much about stewardship. It comes from the word "steward," an old English term for someone who managed another's property, finances or other affairs. We believe God calls us to be good stewards of what we've been given, no matter how little or how large.

Your Time & Talents

All of us have been blessed with gifts, talents, and passions that are meant to be shared. We encourage you to find out where your passions lie and to use your time and talents to work with a group or project that touches your heart. Here are a few areas where you can help.

- Altar Guild
- Acolytes
- Sunday School
- Lay Eucharistic Ministry
- Ushers
- Choir & Music Program
- Lectors
- Events & Fundraising
- Mission & Outreach
- Youth Ministry

Your time is a valuable commodity and we urge you to make a commitment to share your gifts and talents in our church, our community, and our world.

Committing Your Time, Talents & Treasures

Your Treasure: Giving Now and Later

In addition to your time and talent, St. Edmund's needs your continued generous financial support to realize its mission. Here are three ways that you can give.

Annual Fund: The annual fund represents the core of our traditional stewardship campaign and provides approximately two thirds of St. Edmund's annual funding. Your pledge will allow St. Edmund's to continue to fund the Rector, a part-time youth minister, a part-time Sunday school director, the office staff, an organist and choirmaster, the children's music program, and the many other programs that comprise St. Edmund's ministry.

Building & Grounds Fund: We have an ongoing need for repairs and maintenance to our buildings and grounds. Roof, parking lot, heating, and ventilation repairs are all major expenses that we face in the future. Your contribution will allow St. Edmund's to build a reserve fund over time to finance these repairs when they inevitably arise.

Legacy Society: With the many needs we have in fulfilling our life's work in response to God, we have the ability to provide for St. Edmund's future ministries. Consider naming St. Edmund's as a beneficiary in your will. You not only leave St. Edmund's with your legacy, you also leave a mark to further the work we have been entrusted to do.

Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Goals and What You Can Do About Them

At the start of the new millennium, leaders from 191 nations, including the United States, agreed on a plan to cut extreme global poverty in half by the year 2015. Together they created the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to address eight worldwide issues of common concern with the central focus of encouraging people to think globally and to act locally.

“There is much that one person, one family, one community, and one church can do to reduce global poverty. The MDGs offer a unique opportunity to improve the lives of billions of people. Acting to support the MDGs offers a clear and practical answer to the question “What can one person do?”

—*Sabina Alkire and Edmund Newell*

We invite you and your family to think about volunteering your time and talents towards one of the Millennium Development Goals. Listed below each MDG are some of the local and international efforts in which St. Edmund's is already engaged. You may want to join one of these efforts or seek out others that touch your heart.

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

One billion people live on less than less than \$1.00 every day. One person dies from hunger every 3.5 seconds. Each one of them is a child of God.

Millennium Development Goals

What You Can Do: Episcopal Relief & Development, Healing Hearts Across Borders (Tijuana Outreach), Pasadena Bad Weather Shelter, Union Station.

2. Achieve universal primary education for children.

More than 100 million children are not in school today, and 70% of them are girls. Yet, educated children have better access to economic opportunities, are less vulnerable to disease and contribute more to society.

What You Can Do: CRISTOSAL Human Rights Office, Hillside Home for Children, The Zababdeh Scholarship.

3. Promote gender equality and empower women.

Women have an enormous impact on the well-being of their families and societies – yet often, many never realize their potential. Empowered women die less often during childbirth, develop healthier and better educated children, and become leaders in their own communities.

What You Can Do: CRISTOSAL Human Rights Office, Episcopal Relief & Development, Union Station.

Millennium Development Goals

4. Reduce child mortality.

Every three seconds a child under the age of five dies. The majority of these tragic deaths are preventable through a combination of clean water, sanitation, improved nutrition, and medical treatment.

What You Can Do: Episcopal Relief & Development, Healing Hearts Across Borders (Tijuana Outreach), Pasadena Bad Weather Shelter.

5. Improve maternal health.

Every year more than 500,000 women die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. In some parts of the world, expectant mothers are as likely to die in childbirth as they are to live to see their baby.

What You Can Do: Episcopal Relief & Development, Healing Hearts Across Borders (Tijuana Outreach).

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Preventable diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis destroy families every day. Health education, proper sanitation, access to clean water, mosquito nets and inexpensive medications can save millions of lives.

Millennium Development Goals

What You Can Do: Episcopal Relief & Development, Healing Hearts Across Borders (Tijuana Outreach).

7. Ensure environmental sustainability.

God made us stewards of creation. Clean water and sanitation can work together to save lives and create thriving societies of human beings.

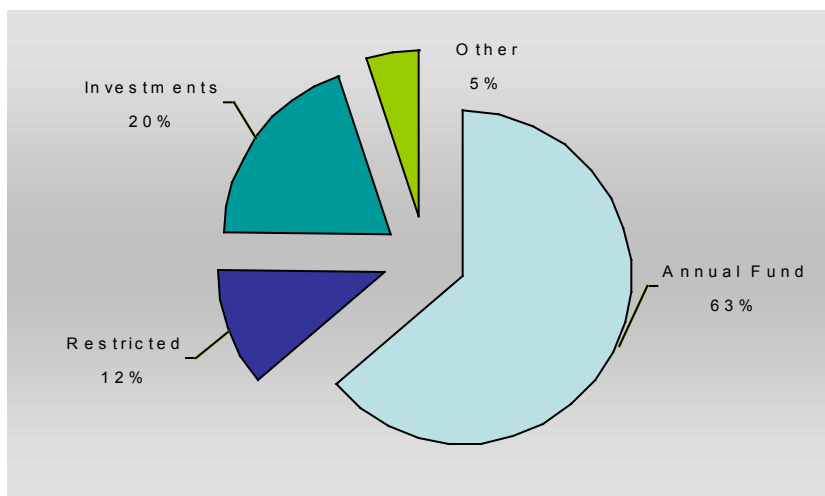
What You Can Do: Episcopal Relief & Development, CRISTOSAL Human Rights Office, Healing Hearts Across Borders (Tijuana Outreach).

8. Create a global partnership for development.

The success of the MDGs depends on all of us; rich and poor alike, our churches, our corporate institutions, and our governments. A fair trading system, increased international aid, and debt relief for developing countries will help us realize the Goals.

What You Can Do: Episcopal Relief & Development.

Projected 2009 Budget:



Income

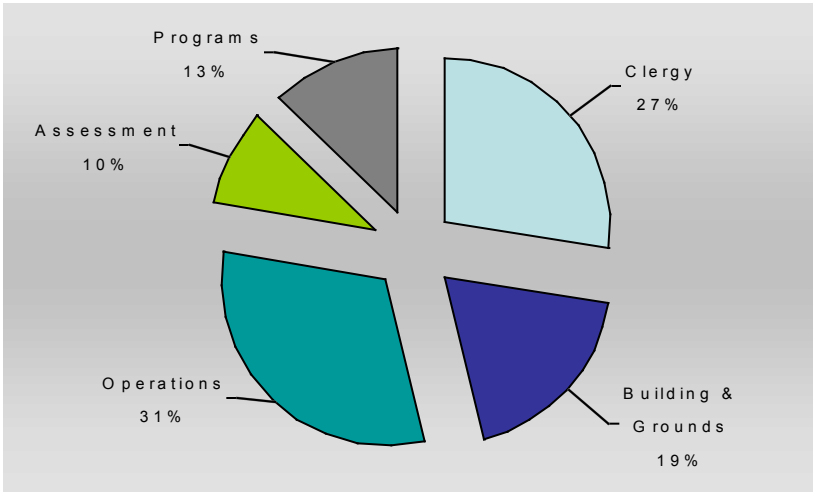
Annual Fund: Pledges from approximately 130 households with an average pledge of approximately \$3,700.

Restricted Gifts: Pledges targeted to music, outreach, clergy or other specified programs.

Investments: Income from our small endowment plus property and facility rentals.

Other: Collection plate offerings and our annual fall fundraiser.

\$762,000



Expense

Clergy: Includes salary, housing, pension, healthcare, and other costs to support our clergy.

Buildings & Grounds: Custodial, utilities, and repairs and maintenance for our buildings and grounds.

Operations: Includes salaries and benefits and all other office costs necessary to support parish administration.

Assessment: Yearly contribution to the Diocese to support Episcopal outreach in the U.S. and abroad.

Programs: Salaries and other costs for music, youth and outreach programs.

Whole World Stewardship

A favorite maxim of John XXIII was “To see everything--to turn a blind eye to much of it-- to correct a little.” When we look at such massive needs as contained in the Millennium Development Goals it is easy to feel so overwhelmed and to wonder what good ONE person can do. As Christians we have no choice but to find a place of service. That we cannot do everything must not deter us from doing what we can do. I invite you to consider service in one of the various mission projects that your Mission and Outreach committee works with. Generally, our mission activities involve St. Edmund’s members. If you feel that God may be calling you to serve with us on the committee, I would invite you to speak with either myself or Father George.

–Kevin Lake, Mission and Outreach



We are more inclusive. We are more conscious about social concerns, and we care about society and community surroundings.

–The Reverend Hui Liang Ni

This year during Lent our youth will “Starve For Food.” They will express their solidarity with the poor and hungry culminating in a “30 Hour Famine.” Youth will learn about the MGDs, raise funds, and go without food for a brief period so that others can eat.



–Joshua Keaney, Youth Minister

Your Life-Stewardship Worksheet

Use the following worksheet to help plan your gifts of time, talents, and treasure. It's far less intimidating once your gifts become part of your life plan. Then stand back and watch God's blessing flow!

Treasure & Pledging

To help you pledge at St. Edmund's:

For 2008 we received pledges from nearly 130 households with an average pledge of approximately \$3,500.

If you are new to the idea of proportional giving, you may want to begin with the national average – 2.6% of income. Or, if you have been giving for a while, take last year's pledge and increase it as much as you can. The traditional Biblical tithe is, of course, 10% of income.

\$ _____ to Annual Fund

\$ _____ to Building & Grounds

\$ _____ to Endowment Fund/Legacy Society

\$ _____ to _____

Please remember to complete and mail the enclosed pledge card to reflect your commitment to St. Edmund's annual campaign and see the Rector regarding your commitment of time and talents.



*St. Edmund's Episcopal Church
Mission*

To receive and share God's accepting Grace,
challenging Wisdom, and transforming Love



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