

A Word From Our Finance Chair

The ad council has approved the budget for 2017. Total giving is estimated to be \$374,500 and is based on the pledge cards turned in by the congregation and what we estimate will come in from unpledged offerings. This amount is \$21,800 less than what was actually collected in 2016, \$42,700 less than 2015 and \$54,500 less than 2014.

With less giving, expenses had to be cut, and they were. They were cut and then cut some more. Unfortunately the bulk of St. John's expenses are fixed with little latitude to trim. Apportionments are fixed by the district and make up 11% percent of the total budget. Staff and clergy salaries, insurance, pensions and taxes were held to the same level as 2016 and make up 66% of the total budget. Telephones, utilities, insurance and maintenance are estimated to be 17% of the budget. These three broad categories together comprise 94% of our total budget. The remaining 6% of the budget is dedicated to ministries.

In addition to less giving, the building fund campaign will end in March of this year. The remaining balance on our building loan is anticipated to be approximately \$60,000 by the time the campaign ends. The ad council has decided to retire the remaining balance through contributions made to the operating fund.

While the building fund campaign will end in March, the obligation to retire the debt will not. The ad council is requesting you continue contributing amounts you were giving to the building fund to the operating fund. Failing to continue those gifts will put an added strain on an already strained budget.

In summary, St. John's is our church. It is home to many life-long friendships and to our spiritual growth. It has sustained many of us through some very difficult times. It has always been there when we needed support and we should support it. We not only should support it, we must support it with our time, our energy and our gifts so that it can sustain others in need and future generations. Please search your conscience and give prayerfully, give with a glad heart and give according to your ability. Your church appreciates your support.

Mike Bartholomew, Finance Chair

2017 BUDGET APPROVED BY AD COUNCIL

PROJECTED INCOME	374,549.00
EXPENSES	
Finance	
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE	10,050.00
APPORTIONMENTS	41,075.00
LOCAL CHURCH EXPENSE	
Interest On Building Loan	3,500.00
Stewardship	300.00
Total Finance	54,925.00
LOCAL CHURCH PROGRAMS	
Adult Ministry	1,100.00
Education Ministry	
Congregational Care	1,000.00
Mission / Outreach	2,250.00
Evangelisim	2,000.00
Worship	6,100.00
Children Ministry	4,700.00
Youth Ministry	4,500.00
Total LOCAL CHURCH PROGRAMS	21,650.00
SPRC	
Total Personel Expense	247,840.08
Trustees	
Church Equip	1,500.00
Church Repairs	5,000.00
Church Utilities	25,800.00
Insurance	30,000.00
Janitor Supplies	1,750.00
Trailer Maintance	57.00
Total Trustees	64,107.00
Total Expense	388,522.08
Net Ordinary Income	-13,973.08

Building Loan Update:

Our current building loan balance is \$65,500.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

To help make up the gap we ask you to please PRAY...PLEDGE TODAY...GIVE!



ST. JOHN'S
A United Methodist Congregation



**8200 25TH AVENUE N.
TEXAS CITY, TX 77591
409-655-5348**

Sunday Worship Services

9:30 am—Contemporary

11:00 am—Traditional

Checkout the calendar at
www.stjohnsumctc.org
Inviting People to
Experience Amazing Love!

Find us on Facebook @
[stjohnsumctcascity](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsumctcascity)

A Word From Our Pastor

I made the mistake in thinking that things would slow down at the turn of the year. Boy was I wrong!! Things haven't slowed down a bit! My messy desk is a witness to the fact that I am barely hanging on! My desk is usually messy, but usually not this messy! We are running full throttle and we aren't slowing down for anyone. Which is interesting.... Because there are some indicators that suggest that we might be slowing down.

Written in this newsletter, you will find some of these indicators. First, the attendance is down. Second, giving continues to drop. You'll see in Mike Bartholomew's article that the decreased giving isn't a new challenge. Third, our pledges were down. This paired with the decrease in giving means that the budget has been cut to the bare minimum. What this means is that some of our events won't happen, or they will look completely different. It also means that two staff positions will remain unfilled: the youth director and the praise band leader. I have to admit that this feels like we have taken a few steps back in 2017. Even in the midst of this disappointment, we are rising to the challenge.

In order to face these challenges head on, we are getting more creative and exerting more energy. We are also very intentional about responding to these challenges and not just reacting to them. To respond thoughtfully and wisely, we need your help. Monday you were sent a survey. If you haven't filled it out, please do so. Your input is important, without it, the puzzle we are trying to put together is incomplete. Your input will help us discern what we are doing fantastic and where we aren't meeting the needs of our members. We may need to make some changes and it would be really nice to know which changes would be most beneficial, so please fill out the survey! The leadership of this church want you to be proud to be a part of St. John's as we live out the covenant of our baptism together.

We are also generating some energy by challenging everyone to bring guests to worship and Fusion all during the month of February. A gift card will be presented to the one that brings the most guests and the other gift card will be given to one of the first time guests that will be randomly drawn. We are also trying to increase our presence on Facebook. So, please check-in on FB when you are at the church and let people know why you love St. John's. And most importantly don't forget to pray!

Starting this month, you will also hear short messages every Sunday about living out the spiritual fruit of generosity. Each message will be short, given by a different leader in the church, and what it has to do with our commitment to St. John's. Even though we face challenges this year, I know it is going to be a great year filled to the brim with excitement for what God has in store for us. God is good and faithful! And I am so grateful to be your pastor, even in the face of challenges and especially in the midst of great opportunity.

Grace and Peace,

Stephanie Hughes

Rev. Stephanie Hughes

A Word From Our Lay Leader

Hello,

I am so proud and excited to be named as your Lay Leader. St. John's is truly a place where people experience amazing love for one another. That is as true today as it was many years ago, when Pam, John and I first started attending this wonderful body of Christians.

As we move into 2017 we have some challenges to face. We will all need to work together to bring in more new people, bring back some of our old friends, and to make sure we have the firm financial footing to fulfill the mission Christ has given us.

To help guide the leadership of our church in these challenges, we are conducting a survey to learn more about your relationship with God and your relationship with St. John's. This survey is available both electronically and in hard copy. Please complete it so that we can better understand how to face the challenges that lie before us.

We live in uncertain but exciting times. St. John's is positioned to do great things for Christ in our community. Every single one of us has a part to play in this mission. You will be hearing more about what you can do in the weeks to come. In the meantime, please pray for our church, our staff, our leadership and, especially, for Pastor Stephanie as she continues to shepherd us all.

With Love, Peace and Joy

Gary Scoggin, Lay Leader



BRING A GUEST TO CHURCH CONTEST

**FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF FEBRUARY
BRING A 1ST TIME GUEST TO WORSHIP ON
SUNDAY OR TO WEDNESDAY NIGHT FUSION
AND YOU AND YOUR GUEST
COULD WIN BIG!!!**

RULES:

- 1. BRING A NEW GUEST
(They cannot have visited St. John's before)**
- 2. HAVE YOUR GUEST FILL OUT A GUEST CARD AND
PUT YOUR NAME DOWN AS REFERRAL**
- 3. AT THE END OF FEBRUARY THE PERSON WHO
BRINGS THE MOST 1ST TIME GUEST WINS
A \$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO GUS' RESTAURANT
IN TEXAS CITY**
- 4. EACH NEW 1ST TIME GUEST FOR THE MONTH OF
FEBRUARY WILL HAVE THEIR NAME PLACED IN A
DRAWING FOR A \$25.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE
TO GUS' RESTAURANT**



**GRAB AN INVITE CARD
AND GO GET'EM!!!
1ST TIME GUEST THAT IS!!!**

GROW

A Word From Our Director Of Children Ministries

Happy February!! St. John's has some exciting things going on this year but I just wanted to highlight one of our most exciting events! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!! VBS is such a fun week but we need TONS and TONS of volunteers so I want to put the dates on your radar. July 24th-July 28th our church will be packed with 80+ kids. We will have kids in almost every space imaginable in this church! We have great music, great snacks, great crafts and so much fun! The most exciting thing about this year's VBS is the theme! We are transforming St. John's into Hero Central. Everything will be superheroes! We will learn about "superheroes" from the Bible such as David and Abigail, we will learn about Jesus and what he stood up for in the Temple but most importantly, the kids will learn how to be superheroes as well! They will learn how to be brave, to have courage, to seek God for wisdom, to have hope and to have power! I cannot wait. I know the kids are going to love it, the decorations are going to look amazing! Please, please, please consider helping us out! Not only will kids get a chance to experience God's amazing love through you, you also will be blessed by being here!

See you soon,
Jessica Dean

Foundry Youth Sundays & Up Coming Events:

6th-8th grade will meet from 4:30-6:00

9th-12th grade will meet from 5:00-6:30

Foundry Youth is in full swing!!! If you would like to volunteer your time for the youth group we have many ways for you to get involved. We need more leaders to help with group discussion & lead lessons and people to cook Sunday night dinners. Please contact Pastor Stephanie or Jessica Dean to volunteer.

February 10th -12th- Confirmation Camp at Lakeview

February 28th-6:00-7:00-Pancake Fundraiser for camp,
UM Army and Big House

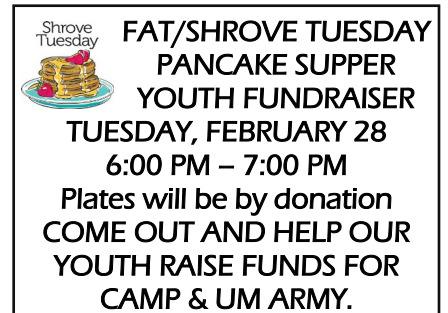
April 16th-Confirmation Sunday (And Easter)

June 8th-June 11th-Big House -\$125 due by April 1st

June 11th-17th-UM Army in Bellville TX-\$250 due by June 1st

June 18th-23rd-Camp at Lakeview-\$400 due by June 1st

July 24th-28th-Vacation Bible School-Hero Central



We will have our annual **St. John's Valentine Dinner Saturday, February 11th** at The Reef Seafood House in Texas City @ 5:30 pm. As always this is a Dutch treat event and everyone is encouraged to bring a friend. All adults are invited

(with or without a sweetheart!) An RSVP would be appreciated so we can give the Reef an accurate head count. There will be a signup sheet at the information table or you can contact Andy or Laura Lailhengue at

texascityandy@yahoo.com or texascitylaura@yahoo.com.



Stewardship Report

Can you believe we are already a whole month into 2017? That's right 2017 is in full swing and you realized...uh-oh...I haven't made my pledge for 2017!!! Well the good news is it's not too late to pledge your commitment in the areas of Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness. It's actually never too late to make a commitment in any of these areas. Now is the time to start fulfilling our commitments! Many of us make New Year's resolutions, but have you ever made a resolution that included your church commitments? You are encouraged to try it this year. Consider including your commitments of Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness in your New Year's Resolutions. Now is the time to start the year out right while you are on the path to walk closer with Jesus. Let us continue to be good stewards and prayerfully consider our time, talents, gifts, service, and witness to follow Christ, and then lead others in the same path, showing what working together accomplishes and that anything is possible through Christ when we believe!

Blessings,

Ingrid Clark, Business Administrator

2016 Year End Financial Summary

2016 Year End Net Income	\$396,299.11
2016 Budgeted Income	\$429,320.00
2016 Year End Actual Income	-\$33,020.89
Surplus/-Deficit	

2016 Total Operating Expenses	\$414,023.18
2016 Total Budgeted Expenses	\$440,707.22
We spent less than the budgeted amount:	\$ 26,684.04
2016 Year End Net Total Income	\$396,299.11
- Total Expense	-\$414,023.18
=Surplus/-Deficit	=\$17,274.07

2017 Tithe & Offerings (funds we have collected compared to what was budgeted)	
2017 Income Received as of Jan 31	\$ 35,971.74
2017 Projected Income as of Jan 31	\$ 31,212.42
2017 Income as of Jan 31	\$ 4,759.32
Surplus/-Deficit	

INVITE

FEBRUARY MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly collection for UFA Susan's Market, a client-choice food pantry located in the building that houses the UFA offices at 2000 Texas Ave in Texas City. For more information or to volunteer, please call UFA at 409-643-8243. St. John's will be collecting Facial Tissues & Hand Sanitizer the whole month of FEBRUARY. You can drop off your donations in the bin in the Ministry area.



St. John's Community Garden Team
Is having a work day
Saturday, February 25th
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Please stop by the information table and sign up today!!! We could use 5-10 people to help till & weed all the beds and around the fruit trees. We are preparing the beds for the spring plants.