



ALL SAINTS CHURCH
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Parish Stewardship Report

By Becky Thyne, Chair of Stewardship Committee
Annual Meeting Part I - February 7, 2010

In our personal lives and in our life together as a community, we find out what we're made of, not in the best of times, but in the worst of times. The strength of our individual and communal characters becomes evident, not when the road in front of us is straight and smooth, but when the ground is rough and the hills are steep.

Our Stewardship Campaign for 2010, squeezed by economic pressures in our families and our country, was a true test of our characters, and I'm here this morning to report to you on what we've discovered about ourselves.

Our theme for the year was *Grace in Action*, and under the leadership of our campaign chair, Richard Beatty, hundreds of us showed up for events, engaged each other in frank conversation, deepened our sense of community, and prodded one another to stretch beyond what we thought we could do. Here is some of what happened:

As of January 22nd:

- 1,165 pledges have been made, totaling \$3,906,803.00.
- 157 of these are new pledges.
- There are 182 families or individuals who have yet to pledge. Each of them received an e-mail from us last week about their pledge, and each of them will be contacted by staff or volunteers.
- Everyone who pledged will receive a thank-you from a Vestry member by telephone or e-mail.

Those are the numbers. Here are some salient facts about the character of this campaign:

- At one gathering at the rectory, 189 people were in attendance, which must be a record for how many people can crowd into Ed and Hope's home. At each of our other stewardship events, large numbers of you showed up, spoke up, and gave more than you have in the past.
- We had a special gathering for our Spanish language congregation, which wound up being attended by a wide cross-section of the entire All Saints family.
- Our special event for twenty and thirty-year-olds was well attended and alive with their excitement about their place in our life together.

- A special stewardship event for our two adult choirs was goofy and somewhat raucous, as you might expect from these tuneful folks. It was also very successful in raising their level of giving.

So what does all of this tell us about who we are? Rick and I have a running dialogue about which is the most important of all the virtues. We agree on the top two, but have them in different order. He thinks courage is the most important virtue because, he says, it makes all the other virtues possible. I opt for generosity because a person with a generous character blesses every relationship he or she has. What we've learned about ourselves in this stewardship campaign is that we as a congregation come down firmly on both sides of this debate. In a time of economic pressure on each of us, we stepped up courageously, and took on the challenge to put *Grace in Action*. As individuals and families, we dug deep, and gave generously to this community which inspires and sustains us. Courageous and generous: that's who we are. That's who you are. That's what the evidence of this campaign tells us about ourselves.

Thank you for your courage and generosity, and congratulations for what you have accomplished.