

A God Who Cries For US

Making his rounds in a local hospital, a chaplain encountered a man who had sustained minor injuries in an automobile accident. Although his injuries were not life-threatening, those of his wife and small child were more serious. The chaplain encouraged the man to have faith and trust in God to which the man angrily replied, “why should I?” “Look at what God has done to my wife and child,” he continued, “how can I have faith in a God who does things like that.”

The chaplain then told the man about a particular occasion when Jesus was passing through a strange town and came across a funeral procession of a young man. Jesus didn’t know the young man or anyone in his family, but He was moved with pity when He saw the crying mother. “Imagine,” the chaplain said, “the Lord

Himself was so moved by pity that He actually cried with the widow.” Jesus then stopped the procession and raised the young man from the dead and gave him back to his mother. (Luke 7:11-16)

The chaplain concluded by asking the man if he really thought that a God who loves us so much that He actually cries for us is capable of causing bad things to happen to us. The same God who cries for us – and who died for us – will never abandon us in our most critical time of need.

As the chaplain was leaving the man’s room, the doctor entered and told the man that his wife and child would be fine. From out in the hallway, the chaplain overheard the man say, “thank You, Jesus.”

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Thomas -- October 6th

ST. GEORGE ROMANIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

EPARCHY OF ST. GEORGE IN CANTON

1123 44TH St NE, Canton, OH 44714

Website: stgeorgeoh.org

Tel: 330-492-8413 FAX: 330-493-9963

Most Rev. John Michael Botean, Bishop - 330-493-9355

Very Rev. Ovidiu Marginean, Rector - 330-492-8413

Very Rev. Iuliu Muntean - 330-493-9355

Fr. Deacon Remus Orian – 330-809-2500

Schedule for Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Vespers: 6:30 p.m.

Day of Feast: 10:00am and 6:30 p.m.

Confessions: See calendar or at any time by request.

Ann Fosnaught, Secretary 330-492-8413 or annf@rcdcanton.org

October 4, 2020

Second Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – 19th after Pentecost

This Sunday: Epistle 2 Cor 11:31-33

Gospel Lk 6:31-36

Next Sunday: Epistle Titus 3:8-15

Gospel Lk 8:5-15

Weekly Liturgy Schedule

Monday 10/5

No Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 10/6

No Divine Liturgy: H/S Talida-Diana and Serban by
Deacon Remus and Gabriela Orian

Wednesday 10/7

8:30am Divine Liturgy: H/S Magdalene Florian by Family

Thursday 10/8

8:30am Divine Liturgy: +Bishop Louis Puscas

Friday 10/9

8:30am Divine Liturgy: H/S Georgeta Barcutian and Barb
Greavu

Saturday 10/10

No Divine Liturgy

Sunday 10/11

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Church Bulletin donated in October 2020 by Earl and Amparo Adkins for everyone's health.

All scheduled services will be held and can be viewed and prayed with at stgeorge.click2stream.com. Make sure to click on the volume to unmute at the bottom right hand corner. Also, we are every Sunday on St. George Cathedral Facebook.

All are invited to coffee hour in the small hall and outside provided by Doug Babb and Rita Cassidy in memory of the Babb and Ungurean Family. Thank you!

Sunday Collection: September 27, 2020

Loose	\$120.00
Sunday envelopes	\$1,103.00
Candles	<u>\$75.00</u>
Total	\$1,298.00

Donations by Romeo and Lucia Craciun Family

+Sica Barcutian, brother of Liviu Barcutian	\$100.00
+Apan and Odesteanu Family	\$50.00

Someone lit a candle and prayed for you last Sunday:

In memory of all Zagan Family Members	The Zagan Family
+Husband Dan Cseak	Natalie Cseak
+All family members and angel +Trisha	Del and Sandy
H/S All family members	Del and Sandy
Special Intention for Family	Doru Jacobs
Health and Salvation	Mihai and Elena Florea
In memory of loved ones	Mihai and Elena Florea
+Andras Heim	Grete Heatherly
+Laslo Raruk	Grete Heatherly
+John, husband	Suzie Dragos
+Apan and Odesteanu Families	Suzie Dragos
H/S Stella Lazar	Suzie Dragos

H/S of all sick members of St. George	Suzie Dragos
H/S Dragos Family	Suzie Dragos
Special Intention	Suzie Dragos
+Anna Botean	Mark Botean
+Vera Botean	Mark Botean
H/S Millie Murari – Happy 93 rd Birthday!	Dave and Debbie Murari
H/S Lil Lupsor	Dave and Debbie Murari
H/S Maria Poplacean	Dave and Debbie Murari
H/S Sister Agnes	Dave and Debbie Murari
H/S Natalie Cseak	Dave and Debbie Murari
H/S Irene Pontones	Dave and Debbie Murari
H/S Gene Popa	Dave and Debbie Murari

+++

Special Announcement:

Please pray for: Missy Lawver, Carol Hoge, Veronica Maier, Sr. Agnes Scalero, Earl Adkins, End to Corona Virus attack, Clore Family, Georgeta Barcutian, Grace Mary Fein, Barbara Greavu, Connie McAdams, Suzie Dragos, Doris Rotar, Virginia Rogers, Stella Lazar and all who need our prayers.

Sick and homebound: Magdalene Florian (Florida), Alex and Theresa Gonyias (Home), Ann Stimer (Home), Maria Poplacean (Canton Regency Rm.#256), Aurelia Lupsor (Canton Christian Home) Natalie Cseak (St. Joseph, Louisville), Eugene Popa (St. Joseph, Louisville) and Irene Pontones (Chapel Hill Retirement Community)

For holy Baptism contact the parish office at least one month prior to the date requested.

For First Reconciliation contact the parish office when your child turns 7.

For Weddings contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date requested.

To guarantee announcements for the bulletin, they need to be given to the office by Wednesday prior to the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

To facilitate **accurate counting**, please use separate checks/cash for the special collection, candle and Sunday collection envelopes. Thank you for your attention to this detail!

Please let the office know if you have an upcoming surgery, illness, etc., so we can put you on our prayer list. Thank you!

Altar Candelabrum for October 2020 is donated by **the Craciun Family for the health of Mrs. Georgeta Barcutian and Mrs. Mary Cornea.**

Left Iconostasis Candelabrum for October 2020 is donated by **Helen Bikis and Family in memory of +John Bikis, Jr.; 4 years.**

Right Iconostasis Candelabrum for October 2020 is donated by ...

Blessed Virgin Mary Candelabrum for October 2020 is donated **Tim Reichel.**

If you would like to sponsor a candelabra for any month of the year in honor of a living member or in memory of any loved ones that have passed away, please get in touch with the Church office and Ann will be able to schedule it for you. Thank you for your continuous support of the Church!!!

Prescura for October 2020: Amparo Adkins, Suzie Dragos, Elena Florea, Ann Fosnaught, Maria Marcu, Debbie Murari, Jacqui Oprean, Virginia Rogers, Patricia Wendt, Dodi Zbuka and Psa. Gabriela Marginean.

Announcements

For the sick and homebound, St. George Cathedral offers a **live stream** of the Divine Liturgy which can be found at the following website: stgeorge.click2stream.com. Please make sure that you turn on the sound at the bottom right hand corner of the screen.

Amazon donates a percentage of your purchases to the charity of your choice when you go to smile.amazon.com. As you are shopping online, you can go to choose the St. George Cathedral. Thank you for using smile.amazon.com!

Benefit Dinner for the nuns of Christ the Bridegroom Monastery

will be hosted on Saturday, November 7th, at a new location: Saint Elias Melkite Catholic Church in Cleveland. There is no cost to attend the dinner, but registration is required by October 26. Adults 21 and older may attend. Enjoy buffet dinner, entertainment and an evening with the nuns and their guests. Learn more about and support the nuns and their life of prayer and hospitality. Donations given at the event or designated ahead of time will be doubled by matching donors. If an in-person event is not possible, a live online event may be held. For more information and to register my please visit www.christthebridegroom.org or call 440-834-0290.

Parish events:

Stewardship Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30pm.

Pastoral Council will meet on Thursday, October 15 at 6:30pm.

To Tickle Your Funny Bone ☺

During a special total more stewardship emphasis at a church in Oak Harbor, Washington, the following was taped to the mirrors in both the men's and women's restrooms:

*Lord, my soul is ripped with riot,
Incited by my wicked diet.*

"We are what we eat" said a wise old man.

"Lord, if that's true, I'm a garbage can."

I want to rise on Judgment Day, that's plain, but at my present weight, I'll need a crane.

So, grant me strength that I may not fall
Into the clutches of cholesterol.

May my flesh with carrot curls be sated,
That my soul may be polyunsaturated.

And show me the light that I might bear witness
To the President's Council on physical fitness.

And oleo margarine I'll never mutter
For the road to hell is spread with butter.

And cream is cursed, and cake is awful,
And Satan is hiding in every waffle.

Mephistopheles lurks in provolone;
The devil is in each slice of bologna.
Beelzebub is a chocolate drop, and Lucifer is a lollipop.
Give me this day my daily slice, but cut it thin and toast it twice.
I beg upon my dimpled knees, deliver me from jujubes.
And when my days of trial are done, and my war with malted milks is won,
Let me stand with saints in heaven, and a shining robe, size 37!
I can do it, Lord, if you'll show to me
The virtues of lettuce and celery.
If you'll teach me the evil of mayonnaise, the sinfulness of Hollandaise
And pasta Milanese, and potatoes a la lyonnaise and crisp fried chicken from
the south,
Lord, if you love me shut my mouth.

Word of Life

The Gospel of life is intrinsic to the whole Christian life and foundational to the decisions we make on a daily basis. For, “the Gospel of God’s love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel” (EV 2). **Excerpt from Evangelium vitae, © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. 2020-2021 Respect Life Reflection, www.respectlife.org/reflection*

For all Catholics:
That on this Respect Life Sunday
our resolve may be strengthened
to uphold the dignity
of every human life;

Let us pray to the Lord, Lord have mercy.

Happy Birthday! La mulți ani!!

Danny Ardelean – October 5th

Tim Reichel – October 6th

Xavier Parker – October 6th

Esther Dershaw – October 8th

Steve Bosca – October 10th

	Mon 10/5	Tue 10/6	Wed 10/7	Thu 10/8	Fri 10/9	Sat 10/10	Sun 10/11
	Danny Ardelean's Ann Fosnaught Charitina, woman	Xavier Parker's Tim Reichel birthday Apostle Thomas	Sergius and Bacchus. +Rev. Fr. Andrew Abstinence	Esther Dershaw's Ven. Mother Pelagia +Rev. Fr. Gabriel	Robert and Barbara Apostle James, son of Abstinence	Steven Bosca's Eulampius and	Apostle Philip, one of SUNDAY OF THE
9am		Liturgy: H/S Talida-Diana and Serban by Deacon Remus and	Liturgy: H/S Magdalene Florian by Family	Liturgy: +Bishop Louis Puscas 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: H/S Georgeta Barcutain and Barb Greavu		
10am							Divine Liturgy 10am - 11:30am
11am							
12pm							Coffee: Tim and Debbie Reichel 11:30am - 12:30pm
1pm							
2pm							
3pm							
4pm							
5pm						Wedding reception 5pm - 11pm	
6pm							
7pm							
8pm							
9pm							
10pm							

DOES CHRIST ASK THE IMPOSSIBLE of His disciples? At times it seems so, as when He tells us to “*love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back*” (Lk 6:35). This doctrine goes against the ordinary inclinations of people of every society, social class or station in life. As a result it has been routinely ignored by Christians of every age when they are faced with the choice of actually putting it into practice.

This is why many non-believers have seen Christians as hypocrites – teaching this principle in theory but ignoring it in practice. In all honesty, many of us might see ourselves in this criticism leveled by the eighteenth-century political philosopher of the American Revolution Thomas Paine: “Those who preach this doctrine of loving their enemies, are in general the greatest persecutors, and they act consistently by so doing; for the doctrine is hypocritical, and it is natural that hypocrisy should act the reverse of what it preaches.” (Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*).

In the Old Testament

The Scriptures are full of imprecations against the enemies of Israel. The Torah and the early histories of Israel encourage believing Jews to consider the pagans living in their midst as God’s enemies and, therefore, their own. If they encourage readers to treat their enemies with compassion, it is for a motive other than kindness. The author of Proverbs warns his readers, “*Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when they stumble, do not let your*

heart rejoice or the LORD will see and disapprove and turn His wrath away from them” (Prov 24:17, 18). In other words, don’t rejoice over your enemy’s misfortune or God will restore their good fortune to spite you!

In Proverbs we find another word of advice on dealing with one’s enemies which was apparently well regarded among first-century Jews: “*If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you*” (Prov 25:21, 22). The author encourages the doing of good from a base motive – Treat your enemy kindly. You will make him feel guilty and God will bless you in the bargain! This is very far from the New Testament teaching and shows us how far from conventional wisdom, even among God’s People, Christ’s doctrine is.

Imitating God

Christ regularly encouraged His disciples to imitate God’s way rather than man’s. God’s way is, of course, the way of mercy and compassion. God “*does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities, For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him*” (Ps 103:10, 11). While the Jews were long encouraged to trust in God’s mercy, it was Christ who taught us to imitate that compassion in the way we treat others.

The Lord Jesus urged His disciples to strive for perfection in their spiritual lives and He

pointed to love for one’s enemies as exemplifying that perfection. Anything less, He identified with the spirit of the scribes and Pharisees. In St Matthew’s Gospel the following injunction concludes and sums up the Sermon on the Mount: “*If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful... You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*” (Mt 5:32-36, 43-48). If the aim of the Christian life is to imitate the Lover of Mankind, the chief sign of that way of life is the way we treat our enemies. We can and should act in the image of God.

Perhaps the most striking example of love for ones enemies in the Gospels is the prayer for His killers which Christ offered while hanging on the cross. *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”* (Lk 23:24). Arrested for preaching in Christ’s name some years later, the first martyr, St Stephen, used his last breath to imitate Christ’s love for His enemies, praying: *“Lord, do not hold this sin against them”* (Acts 7:60) as he was being stoned by his killers: God, and those who follow His way, do not let themselves be conditioned by the wickedness of others. Even when forgotten or rejected, they continue to be faithful to loving others.

Forgiving through the Holy Spirit

Imitating God in this way isn’t easy. Some say it isn’t even in our power, but is an attitude that can only be the fruit of grace, given by the Holy Spirit. This is why St. Silouan the Athonite writes, "The soul that has not known the Holy Spirit does not understand how one can love one’s enemies, and does not accept it."

The ability to love one’s enemies is also closely bound to humility. Almost all the difficulties we encounter in loving our enemies are linked with pride: it is from pride that flows the affliction that follows upon insults, hatred, bad temper, spite, the desire for revenge, contempt for one’s neighbor, refusing to forgive him and to be reconciled with him. Pride excludes the love of enemies and love for one’s enemies excludes pride.

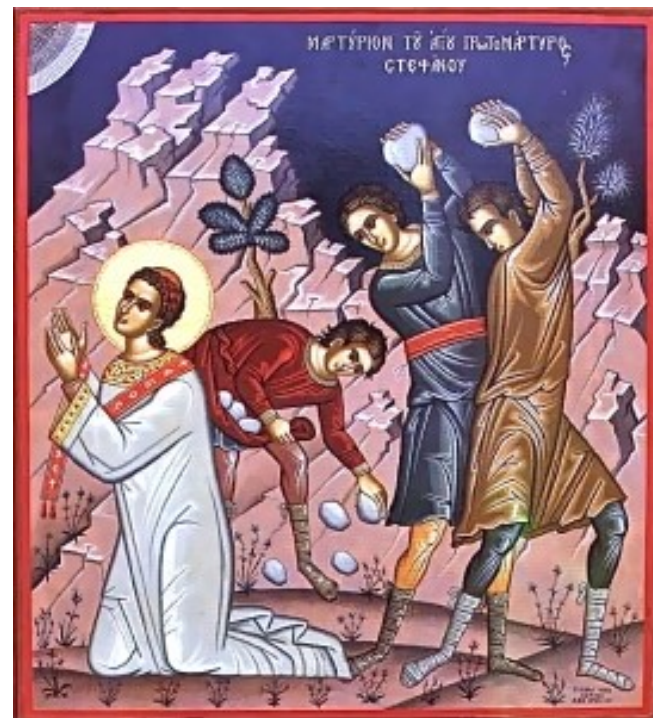
When we think of asceticism, we may consider prayer vigils, fasting, or making numerous prostrations. The most challenging ascetical feat, however, is to practice love for one’s enemies.

St Silouan the Athonite on Loving Our Enemies

“He who has not learned to love from the Holy Spirit, will certainly not pray for his enemies.”

"Lord, teach us through Your Holy Spirit to love our enemies and to pray for them with tears . . . Lord, as You prayed for Your enemies, so teach us also, through the Holy Spirit, to love our enemies."

*Second Sunday after Holy Cross
(18 Pentecost, 2 St Luke)*



Forgiving as He Forgives

St. George Cathedral
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
August 2020

	<u>Aug 20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jul - Aug 20</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Program Income		197.00		347.00	416.00
Catering Income		1,150.00	393.00	5,797.00	9,693.00
Fundraising Activities: Festival	23,093.17	15,500.00	24,176.99	15,500.00	83,164.00
Interest & Dividends	46.95	99.00	293.46	272.00	2,538.00
Offerings: Sunday & Special	17,544.26	9,559.38	25,553.93	17,863.13	131,115.70
Total Income	<u>40,684.38</u>	<u>26,505.38</u>	<u>50,417.38</u>	<u>39,779.13</u>	<u>226,926.70</u>
Cost of Goods Sold					
Cost of Goods Sold	293.01	1,394.00	385.26	2,804.00	6,960.00
Total COGS	<u>293.01</u>	<u>1,394.00</u>	<u>385.26</u>	<u>2,804.00</u>	<u>6,960.00</u>
Gross Profit	40,391.37	25,111.38	50,032.12	36,975.13	219,966.70
Expense					
Church Expenses: Property Insurance	675.00	1,561.00	1,514.68	2,361.00	11,129.00
Fundraising Expense: Festival	4,295.30	3,100.00	5,168.06	4,760.04	37,879.87
Administrative Expense	62.59	150.00	67.05	171.00	1,076.00
Auto Expense	215.46	530.00	288.33	615.00	4,337.00
Catering Expense	351.68	571.00	683.74	1,023.00	6,315.50
Diocese Support: Taxa & Retirement Fund	1,242.16	1,337.06	2,351.72	2,449.12	13,833.72
Dues & Subscriptions	118.21	103.00	339.12	178.00	1,532.00
Postage	46.35	160.00	120.35	410.00	2,223.00
Professional Services					120.00
Payroll Expenses: Fr. Ovi, Ann & loan	4,324.26	4,325.00	8,648.52	8,650.00	52,600.00
Plant & Equipment Maintenance	3,974.43	4,440.00	12,153.70	11,850.00	40,699.00
Real Estate Taxes					2,435.54
Travel & Meetings Expenses		100.00	12.96	130.00	1,175.00
Utilities: Gas, Water, sewer, Electric, Phone, internet	2,111.72	2,571.00	4,406.35	4,767.00	28,655.00
Program Expense: candles & catechism	561.28	1,954.75	806.91	2,452.75	15,392.00

St. George Cathedral
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
 August 2020

	Aug 20	Budget	Jul - Aug 20	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Total Expense	17,978.44	20,902.81	36,561.49	39,816.91	219,402.63
Net Ordinary Income	22,412.93	4,208.57	13,470.63	(2,841.78)	564.07
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income					
Unrealized gain/loss: Investment - market change	8,824.00		17,331.10		
Total Other Income	8,824.00		17,331.10		
Other Expense					
Other Expense		1,250.00		1,250.00	3,750.00
Total Other Expense		1,250.00		1,250.00	3,750.00
Net Other Income	8,824.00	(1,250.00)	17,331.10	(1,250.00)	(3,750.00)
Net Income	31,236.93	2,958.57	30,801.73	(4,091.78)	(3,185.93)

St. George Cathedral
Balance Sheet
As of August 31, 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Edward Jones Investment	140,718.08
Bookstore Imprest account	100.00
Money Market	20,876.40
St. George Orphanage	479.38
Cash in bank - operating	23,754.60
Total Checking/Savings	185,928.46

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable	3,519.28
Total Accounts Receivable	3,519.28

Other Current Assets

Investments - other	
Undeposited Funds	1,941.00
Total Other Current Assets	1,941.00

Total Current Assets

191,388.74

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

Accounts Payable	14,697.43
Total Accounts Payable	14,697.43

Credit Cards

Huntington - Master Card	1,020.03
Visa Business Card - St. George	
Total Credit Cards	1,020.03

Other Current Liabilities

Building maintenance - projects	
Collections payable	1,895.85
Payroll Liabilities	(36.83)
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,859.02

Total Current Liabilities

17,576.48

Long Term Liabilities

Note Payable - John Deere Lawnm	495.41
Total Long Term Liabilities	495.41

Total Liabilities

18,071.89

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

October 2020



...the best pieces were reserved for church.

Continued from page 1...

There is a story...

Don't say that you can't! Look at it from the standpoint of 5% or 10% of what God blesses you with this year. Give on that amount. It will bless your life to sacrifice during the upcoming year. Start this week ... just one week at the time! ☩



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There is a story about a clock that decided to take a serious look at things. The old clock said, "Why, I have to tick two ticks per second, 120 ticks per minute, 7200 ticks per hour, 172,800 ticks per day, and 63,072,000 ticks per year. I just can't stand it any longer. I think that I'll just sit down and quit. That's too much for me."

He quit trying to be a clock. Someone carried him to the doctor and he explained his problem like this. "I have to tick two ticks per second, 120 ticks per minute, 7200 ticks per hour, 172,800 ticks per day, and 63,072,000 ticks per year. I just can't do it any longer. It's too much for me."

The old doctor analyzed the clock's problem and then gave him this advice: "How many ticks do you have to tick at one time?" The clock answered that he only had to tick one tick at the time. The doctor then asked, "Well, how were you doing, ticking one tick at the time?" The clock answered that he was doing all right as long as he was just ticking one tick at the time. The doctor replied, "Well, can you continue to tick just one tick at the time." The clock answered that he could. The doctor commented, "Well, that solves your problem ... just go home and tick one tick at the time. If you will do that, you will be able to make it right on." The clock did that and as far as we know, he is doing fine. He's still ticking two ticks per second, 120 ticks per minute, 7200 ticks per hour, 172,800 ticks per day, and 63,072,000 ticks per year ... ticking one tick at the time.

It seems that there is so much to do; so many debts to pay; so many loose ends to get caught up on. Don't let this get you down! You can't do it all at once, but you can do each of these one at the time.

You are encouraged to find room for God and God's work. Your decision to make God a part of your life will be the best decision that you will make this year. The clock almost didn't make it. Life was too much for him. It will be too much for you if you leave God out of your life.

Offering \$1,500 or \$1,000 or \$500 ... that's an awful lot of money. Will you be able to give that much? Do like the clock! Don't think about it from the largest amount, but from the smallest. If you will give a significant portion of your income each week, a sacrificial commitment, it will amaze you how much you have been able to invest in God's work.

A beautiful creed to live by was expressed by Etienne De Grellet: "I expect to pass this way but once; any good therefore that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."



(Continued on page 4)



Utilizing Time

What will give our life more meaning? We are blessed with many gifts, not the least of which is time. God has put us in this environment, among these people and these opportunities. We will be accountable to God for the way in which we use our time to relate to these people, respect the environment, and avail ourselves of the opportunities, and the manner in which we carry out our responsibilities.

Lost possessions may be replaced, a broken friendship can be mended, but one cannot regain time squandered in selfish pursuits.

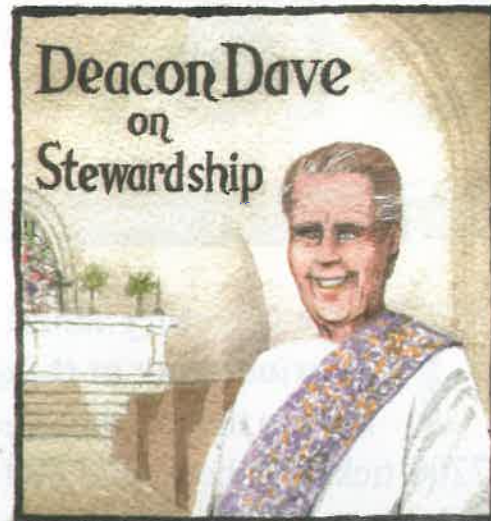
Many of us are preoccupied with pursuing the age-old question, "What is the meaning of Life?," when we should be asking, "What will give our lives more meaning?" The utilization of time can be used in answer to this question.

A "Brownie" Lesson

You boys can have the corner pieces, but the rest of the pan is going to church."

It's been fifty years, but I can still hear my mother saying these words. They were often offered in reference to a batch of brownies that had just been removed from the oven.

Chocolate brownies were my mother's dessert of choice. She would frequently offer this treat for a variety of church events. But there was a "house rule" concerning them. Whereas my brother and I were allowed to snack on the four corner pieces (viewed as less desirable), the best pieces were reserved for church.



Since our existence must be filled with an aim in order to make it a life, it is necessary to use our time and energy in pursuit of this aim. Wanting to do something does not bring it about.

Willing ourselves to do something means that we plan to make the effort to bring it about. That means setting priorities which answer this question as we awaken each morning, "What can I do to serve the Lord today?" ☩

Little did I know it then, but my mother was offering her two sons a wonderful lesson in stewardship. She was re-enforcing the biblical concept of the "first fruits," where the first and best of our time, talent and treasure – or in this case, a pan of brownies – is to be offered to God.

On several occasions over the years I have been reminded that whenever I have held on to the first of my income, time and talent, I seldom seemed satisfied. Yet when I have offered God the first and best of these resources, not only has a greater sense of satisfaction arisen, but there has always been enough left over to meet my needs.

☩

You are the Church!

As a Christian, you are the church. Realizing this, the questions you must ask yourself are:

- ☩ What am I doing to demonstrate my love of God and to fulfill my obligation as a member of God's family?
- ☩ Am I as generous toward God's family as I am to my own?
- ☩ Do I make excuses, pretending I don't have time to devote to my church family?
- ☩ Or, do I sacrifice a portion of personal pleasures or social life to use my time in expression of love of God to help in the work of my church family?

Steward of the Month

Why did you put it ALL in?

Submitted by: Julie, Rockford, IL

We recently had a wedding at our church and there were going to be several children who were participating in the wedding service. The grandmother asked my two teenage daughters if they would like to babysit and help clean up after the wedding. The kids were great and it was a beautiful service. The grandmother generously gave the girls an envelope with two ten dollar bills in it. The next church service I saw the younger girl put \$10 into the collection plate. I wanted to reach out and take it back and say no, you don't have to put it all in! You worked hard! Use it for something you need! I said nothing as the plate passed.

After the service I said, Why did you put it all in? She said, We decided to share the other \$10 and give that one to the church.

We should all give like the little children, not trying to keep what we think we deserve because we worked hard for it, but to give and share what God has blessed us with. ☩

"Steward of the Month" is an exciting way to recognize exemplary stewards. If you are aware of someone who has exemplified Christian stewardship, please tell us about it at stewardofthemoth.com. Once a month, one submission will be chosen to be published in *Stewardship*. In addition, if your story is chosen, \$100 will be given to the church or organization of your choice.

If God could get his voice through to us God probably would say: "Grant me a minute, please! With the light which I shall give you, make an honest examination of your daily schedule. Do you have talents unused or wasted on petty goals? By eliminating some non-essentials, could you not give more time and energy to really meaningful enterprises? Are you sure that you are fulfilling, reasonably well, your part in my plan?"

We were created to use all that we have in fellowship with God. When that is not done, our lives are unfulfilled and incomplete. It is not a matter of earning our salvation, but of putting God in the center where God belongs. When we do that, everything else can fall into place. And when we do that, we want to express our thanks by giving and by sharing our time and talents to help others.