

The Anderson's Script for October 14th:

Kathy

In 1994 we were married at St. Barnabas.

We moved to the island in 1996, one week before our first child was born.

Soon after we were moved in and situated as parents with a new baby, women from St. Barnabas began to drop by our house delivering flowers, cards and homemade meals. We were touched by these gifts and acts of kindness from parishioners we didn't yet know.

Life was chaotic during those early years settling into our home and raising young children, but we started attending St. Barnabas and found we liked it. Our kids liked St. Barnabas too attending preschool here and forming many friendships which continue to last today.

When it came time to "join" the church and pledge, we looked at each other and had to admit that we had no idea what one should pledge.

Borgan

My family had a summer home on Bainbridge. My parents were married at St. Barnabas and I attended church periodically throughout my childhood and when visiting as a young adult.

My parents never talked to me about church membership or pledging. Kathy's parents were similarly silent to her.

Our assumption looking at the beautiful church and grounds was that St. Barnabas must be wealthy and well endowed. Clearly, the church didn't need our money as much as we did!

When we were considering how much to pledge, we initially monetized the value as the equivalent of an hour of babysitting each week. Needless to say, our initial pledge wasn't very much. But at the time, with young children we always seemed to spend more than we earned.

Within a year or two, we were invited to attend a luncheon in the parish hall to learn about stewardship and things to consider when determining what to pledge.

It was quite an eye opener. We learned that St. Barnabas really did need money, our contributions were not gravy, but necessary to pay the basic costs every month.

Kathy

We also gained an appreciation for the spiritual value of giving to the Church. Again, it was an eye opener.

After that luncheon, Borgan and I were inspired to make a very significant increase in our pledge. It was a gift of faith in more ways than one. We were counting on a pay raise that was not certain. But as often the case, when you give, you also receive.

Over the years, we have continued to increase our pledge. Not once have we regretted increasing our pledge or have had to reduce our pledge. We have both noticed that no matter how far we push ourselves in giving to St. Barnabas, we continue to make ends meet at home – is this what that leap of faith looks like? We believe so.

Borgan

Kathy has served on the vestry 3 times. I am currently on the finance committee. At this point, we both have a good understanding of the financial situation and needs of St. Barnabas.

Yes, it is a wealthy church. St. Barnabas has endowments funds of about \$1.5 million. These endowment funds are there to provide a safety net if major capital improvements are needed or an emergency arises and to help fund outreach. This is incredibly valuable and reflects some very thoughtful and generous gifts to the church in years past. However, only the income from these endowment funds supports the annual operating budget.

Looking at our 2018 budget of approximately \$500,000 in operating costs, the endowment funds provide income of \$36,000, or 7% of the annual budget. This is wonderful, but it means that 93% of the annual funding comes from other sources, and the biggest source is pledge income.

Thus, payroll, utilities, repairs & maintenance and program costs are primarily funded by annual pledges. Pledge income is critical to funding the day-to-day operations of the church. If we don't raise enough money through annual pledges, we will need to cut costs.

Kathy

St. Barnabas absolutely needs your contribution.

Please join Borgan and me and create a pledge that works for you so you too can experience the practice of pledging in your place of worship. It's truly a rewarding experience.