

"OFF TO A GOOD START"

April Stewardship Update

St. John's by the Gas Station Lutheran Church

Good starts are important in races. A good start helps you build momentum and gives you a lot of hope and encouragement. We are off to a good start at St. John's for the first 3 months of the year. Our council has set some key goals for the year which build on our strengths.



1) BUILD UP OUR YOUTH PROGRAMMING

We hired a part time Youth Minister, John Jay, to help us mobilize our growing number of teens. John started a weekly Sunday evening Youth program this January which kids are inviting their friends to. *We have seen the average number at Youth Group grow from 12 participants at the beginning of 2012 to 21 at the end of the first quarter.* The teens have also done some special events such as the 30 hour famine, the Baltimore Youth Quake, and hosted a Parents Night Out. Let's keep building on that momentum!

2) INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN US

We no longer believe that people will simply come to church because we are here! Rather, we are trying to continually remind ourselves that we must invite others.

We hosted a *Bring a Friend Sunday* in which Jesus came as our Guest Speaker. We asked members to post the Invitation Notice on their Facebook Pages and also invited them to pass out invitation postcards to their friends. We had double the attendance that Sunday and saw numerous families return in the weeks afterwards. We are getting to know our new friends and look forward to our next new member class in May.

Additionally, our church is so passionate about serving at the Men's Shelter and working at Habitat for Humanity. We decided that our goal this year would be to challenge each other to invite a friend to "COME AND SERVE WITH US". At our first Habitat work day, we had 5 friends come and join us. Additionally, in the first 3 months of the year, we've had 12 friends help us cook or serve meals at the shelter.

3) REACH OUT TO EACH OTHER

As we strive to grow, we also know we need to care for each other. We are training 6 Stephen Ministers right now who will help us provide care for people in need. We also started a Friendly Calling Program where 10 people are making three calls each week to our members. We believe that the more we reach out to each other, the better off we will be. Some positive results—we've seen some members return to active worship as a result of these calls and we've also learned of special needs and prayer concerns. Being proactive makes a difference!

YOUR GENEROUS GIVING ENABLES US TO KEEP PUSHING FORWARD IN MISSION AND MINISTRY!

Pastor X