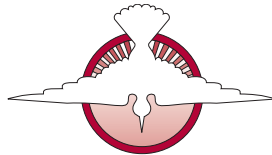


Stories TO Tell



All Saints Lutheran Church

October 2009
Vol. 1, Issue 3

A Spirit-filled community where people make a difference

& Gifts TO Share

**Glorifying God
in all we do**

Stories themselves become gifts to share

"Stories are gifts. It is up to us to give and receive them."
- A Cheyenne storyteller

All Saints has undertaken a new stewardship initiative entitled "Stories to Tell & Gifts to Share."

Together, we will engage in storytelling about our mission, ministry and life together. We believe telling these stories is like sharing a gift from God.

Some stories will be directly connected to our community; others will tell how we are connected to ministries around the world; and still others will tell how God's presence has transformed our lives and how we have responded to that transformation.

We will lay groundwork for this effort through a sermon series through Oct. 18.

The pastors will lead Bible conversations on "Stories to Tell & Gifts to Share" in the Adult Forum at 9:30 a.m. In Sunday School, the children will also be introduced to the



**See other side for a story
from our chief story gatherer**

idea of living gracefully and gratefully in ways that show God's love to others and telling the story of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. On Oct. 18, we will ask you to commit your gifts to God.

Stories are gifts. They inspire us, transform us and through Jesus Christ, redeem us.

Stories are gifts from God. Be ready to give and receive them.

Bible Verse

Matthew 21:33-41
The Message

Here's another story. Listen closely. There was once a man, a wealthy farmer, who planted a vineyard. He fenced it, dug a winepress, put up a watchtower, then turned it over to the farmhands and went off on a trip. When it was time to harvest the grapes, he sent his servants back to collect his profits.

The farmhands grabbed the first servant and beat him up. The next one they murdered. They threw stones at the third but he got away. The owner tried again, sending more servants. They got the same treatment.

The owner was at the end of his rope. He decided to send his son. 'Surely,' he thought, 'they will respect my son.'

But when the farmhands saw the son arrive, they rubbed their hands in greed. 'This is the heir! Let's kill him and have it all for ourselves.'

See **VERSE**, other side

God's people using God's resources for God's purposes



Even when we don't know we need Him, God is there

By Ken Keller

They were taking their daughter back for fall semester at Vanderbilt University. We offered to loan them our Suburban van to make the trip.

"Oh, no," they protested "we don't need that much cargo space." From experience we knew better. When the van was packed, it was full from floorboard to ceiling.

As they left, we prayed for their safekeeping. They were our neighbors when their college-age daughter was born.

They drove the 400 miles to Nashville, Tenn., and back. They made several cross-town trips in Nashville. Once returned, they took the van to a gas station to fill it and to a car wash as a way of thanking us for the loan. Finally, they brought the van up our steep driveway and made the tight right turn into our backyard.

It was supper time, and we invited them to stay. No, they were grateful but had other tasks to

complete yet that evening.

After dinner, I went outside to put the van in our garage. I started the engine and turned the steering wheel. It turned easily in my hands. Too easily. There was no resistance, and the front tires didn't respond at all. The steering column was as useless as a child's steering wheel that attaches to the dashboard so he can drive "like dad."

Our friends had driven almost a thousand miles in a car that became dangerously inoperable the instant they stepped out of it. And its breakdown occurred in the interval before we would have begun driving it again.

In that moment I felt profoundly the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. And I pushed from my mind the vision of our friends driving Interstate speeds in a heavily loaded van when the steering wheel stopped operating.

Thank you, God, for being our shield and protection in all we do. Especially, when we don't even know we're in danger.

Expressions of gratitude

through our money, which translates into ministry

- 523 member households have contributed over \$625,000 to date; for which we are very grateful!
- Gifts in memory of Nate Marburger have been designated for the youth ministry program.

through our presence

- Members who respond with food, care and comfort at receptions following funeral services
- Those who care for our property, and often offer to pitch in when they see a need,

through our gifts

- The Ironton Tools for School project. St Paul's and All Saints each filled 1000 back packs and 60 preschool bags 189 volunteers were utilized totaling 645 volunteer hours.

Our congregation is grateful for all of these gifts people share.

Verse

From front

They grabbed him, threw him out, and killed him.

Now, when the owner of the vineyard arrives home from his trip, what do you think he will do to the farmhands?

"He'll kill them—a rotten bunch, and good riddance," they answered. "Then he'll assign the vineyard to farmhands who will hand over the profits when it's time."

God's people using God's resources for God's purposes