

10/29/2023 Stewardship Talk 2024

Three Frogs on a Log

Summary:

Abby O'Connell gave this year's Stewardship Talk, reminding people of the story of the three frogs on a log. One frog made a decision to jump off.

How many frogs are on the log? The answer is THREE.

There is a difference between making a decision and taking action.

Last year we decided to lease out the Ed Building, and since then we have taken a LOT of action. To start, we emptied the Ed Building COMPLETELY (no mean feat that). What did we do with all that stuff? We had a Good Will drive for one; then we had 619 pounds of obsolete financial records shredded to make room. Do you have any idea how big 619 pounds of shredding is? Twenty-six banker boxes...that's how big. (Thanks be to Jim Cobb and Joe Gutierrez for doing the hauling!)

In addition, we reorganized the storage space in the parish hall, another massive task. Then we had the Ed Building deep cleaned. Did you know the walls in the Ed Building are made of vinyl and can't be painted? I did not know that. They only need a good scrubbing every decade or so. We removed six trees from the property that would be a hazard sooner or later and the backyard looks SO much better.

So yes, we have taken action and then some. We can safely say there is one happy little frog swimming around in the pond. We are looking forward to the other two frogs jumping in this coming year, too.

We then reviewed our five core values and with audience participation, came up with many ways we live these values every day.

St. Thomas Church Core Values

- **We follow Jesus.** We study his life and teachings, so we might love God and do God's will.
- **We welcome all.** We respect the dignity of everyone.
- **We serve those in need,** whether physically or spiritually.
- **We thrive in community.** It gives us comfort, strength and joy.
- **We embrace change** so we can keep the church strong and relevant.