



Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ~ *Ephesians 5:1-2*

Walk in Love ~ This is the invitation we hear every Sunday at the time of the Offertory. It's about giving our whole selves to God in response to God's gifts to us. God's love is the foundation for everything we do and it's our guiding principle for life – life together and life as individuals. Walking in love is a daily practice and exercise.

We are only able to love because God first loved us, most profoundly through the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And we grow in love and faith when we return some of what we have received to God and share it with others.

We know that we are stronger together as we bless one another with our prayers, our caring and support of each other, our learning, our playing, and our worship together. Our witness to the love of God in Christ to our neighbors and our wider community is more powerful when practice loving welcome and joy in all of our gatherings.

In the past year we have seen our parish grow in love, in joy, and in people. Our Children's Corner has gotten fuller and busier, and our Godly Play class has expanded in size. New folks have joined both the All Saints' Choir and the Bell Choir. We had our first youth Confirmation Class in a number of years, and our overall Sunday congregation has continued to increase.



Our buildings and grounds are a gift of love to us from past generations, and we have cared for them as good stewards with grateful hearts. This year we were able to install new walkways to the Memorial Garden, as well as new name boards for the Garden. We removed the old shed on the Parish House playground as we prepare for a refresh of that area. And of course, we have been able to launch the much-

needed restoration and repair of the stained-glass altar window.



TwelveBaskets
FOOD PANTRY
SERVING THE
LONG HILL AREA

Twelve Baskets Food Pantry, our partnership ministry with First Presbyterian Church, Meyersville Presbyterian Church, and Long Hill Township Community Resources, continues to expand in loving concern. Twice a month we serve more than 50 households, as well as Veterans at the Valley Brook apartments with basic groceries, cleaning supplies, personal care items, and holiday specials. Working with Community Resources we are able to identify and respond to other particular needs that residents struggle with beyond food insecurity.

This year our Rummage Sale took on a new “weather-resilient” pattern. We used both floors of the Parish House, as well as our collection of tents outdoors. The Sale continues to be a labor of love: relationship and fellowship building, welcoming our neighbors, providing opportunities for those on a tight budget, and keeping useful items out of the landfill.



Our parish life has flourished with coffee hour, parties, picnics, and other events. It’s an extension of the love of God we experience in worship that is both joyful and reverent. All of this is possible because of the ways we care for our Church through prayer, loving service, and financial support.

Time & Talent: *Your Participation Makes All Saints’ Go*

In our family of faith, as in any family, life works best when everyone has a role. You know you belong when you have a job (a ministry), however big or small. There are many ways to participate. Here are some of them:

Worship

All Saints’ Choir
Bell Choir
Lectors/Lay Eucharistic Ministers
Altar Guild
Ushers

Stewardship

Buildings & Grounds Crew
Rummage Sale
Office Angels
Finance Committee

Formation

Godly Play (Sunday School)
Other family formation events
Bible Study
Parish Life events
Reception Hosts for funerals

Intercessory Prayer Chain

Evangelism/Outreach

Coffee Hour Hosts
Twelve Baskets Food Pantry
Christmas Adopt-a-Family

You may also have other ministries that you exercise outside of Church. Or you may notice some other ways All Saints' can be serving our neighbors and wider community that you would like to work on and invite others to join you. The important thing is to be offering your time and talent to God and in service of others intentionally.

The Dollars & Cents in 2024: *the Practical Side of Ministry*

How was the operating budget funded?

Pledge income: \$180,475 was given by 64 households. Pledges are 65% of our parish income. The average pledge was \$2,820. The median pledge (middle of range of all pledges) was \$1800. The chart below shows the range of pledges for 2024.

Amount of Pledge	# of Pledges in this Range	Total \$ pledged in this Range
Above \$10,000	3	\$53,000
Up to \$9,999	3	\$22,200
Up to \$5,999	10	\$46,240
Up to \$2,999	19	\$38,800
Up to \$1,499	21	\$18,170
Up to \$499	8	\$1,985

Plate income: \$15,000 was budgeted; including unpledged parish contributions, holidays, weddings, funerals and baptisms. This income is somewhat difficult to predict. Another \$6500 of income was budgeted for donations towards flowers and music.

Fundraisers: \$18,000 was budgeted, including the Rummage Sale, Fish & Chips, and the book bins.

Owned assets: the budget was \$60,000 for use of the Parish House, and rental of the Rath House apartment and the rectory on Northfield Road. Parish House income is often variable and difficult to predict. This estimate was based on actual 2023 income.

2024 Total budgeted INCOME \$283,500*
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How was the money spent?

Worship: Music Director salary, choir expenses, instrument maintenance, Altar Guild: \$32,770.

Buildings & Grounds: utilities (gas, electric, water, sewer), building and liability insurance, snow plowing, property taxes, cleaning, lawn care, repairs, and maintenance: \$73,850. Some of our large capital expenses are funded outside the budget from the Legacy Funds. These include designated monies accruing for the Memorial Garden upkeep, window restoration, general capital, and memorial gifts.

Administration: Parish Administrator salary and pension contribution, office equipment and supplies, phone, internet, postage, audit: \$30,693.

Outreach: our pledge to diocesan ministry and the Rector's Discretionary Fund: \$25,000.

Other outreach – especially the food ministry is funded outside of the operating budget.

Parish Life & Education: Books, education materials, and events: \$1,650.

Clergy includes salary, housing allowance, medical insurance, pension, professional expenses & education, supply clergy, sabbatical fund accrual: \$119,914.

2024 Total budgeted expense \$284,002*

That gave us a budgeted deficit of \$502.

* The figures in these major categories do not equal the actual dollar totals because some minor categories are not listed here.

As we look ahead to 2025 we know realistically there are always increased expenses – utilities, insurance, supplies, and maintenance services. We'd like to give our parish staff a cost-of-living increase, which they haven't had in several years. We'd also like to be able to contribute our full 10% pledge to the Diocese of Newark.

Making a Pledge

Your giving should reflect your faith and trust in God, the joy and purpose of Christ's mission through All Saints', and your own family circumstances. **Start by calculating what one percent of your income is** (before or after taxes is up to you), and then prayerfully decide what percentage you will commit. The chart included with this packet gives you some examples. The biblical standard is to give one tenth of our wealth back to God. For some of us this is a far-off goal; others are already doing it. Many are increasing the percentage of their giving in small portions year by year.

Whatever you and God decide, your gift is welcomed and needed.

Everyone's participation is so important. Thank you!

Your pledge of financial support to God's mission in and through All Saints' Church is vital. Your prayers and presence are an expressing of God's love in and for our community.

If you have supported All Saints' in the past, thank you for all you have done. We are so grateful. Please consider all the ways that you have been blessed by being part of this loving and growing Christian community and increase your pledge to our shared ministry if you are able to do so.

If you are new to the Church, thank you for joining this community of faith in Christ and blessing us with your prayers and presence.

And to all God's Saints, thank you for prayerfully considering how you can best support All Saints' in the coming year 2025.

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