

Stewardship

at All Saints' Church for 2022



“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” *James 1:17*

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing today to ask for your support for All Saints' Church in 2022; specifically, a pledge of a financial donation for the year that will allow us to continue our ministry on God's behalf. Please carefully read through this letter and the enclosed brochure. Then ask God to guide you in making a faithful decision about what your level of support will be.

We are living through a time of tremendous change – in our work, our families, the world at large, and here at All Saints' Church. The pandemic has pushed all of ways in ways we could not have imagined and have often been unwelcome.

Yet we know that in the midst of trouble, disruption, and grief, there can also be good and precious gifts – a new appreciation of life, more time spent with family, a renewal of important relationships, a re-ordering of priorities in ways that support our life, health, and well-being.

The image of the butterfly and chrysalis above reminds us that beauty, freedom, and new life can emerge from a time of difficulty and change. The butterfly is a symbol of transformation and Resurrection – God's perfect gift!

What have been God's gifts to you through this last year? How has your faith in Christ sustained you, even when our parish community has not always been able to gather in person? How will you give thanks to God in tangible ways with your prayers and presence, your time, talent, and treasure?

Here at All Saints' we have been blessed in so many ways with faithful and creative parishioners and staff. They have worked hard to keep us connected, in all sorts of ways, to continue our worship and fellowship, to offer opportunities for learning and service to others. In particular our music, our on-line Bible study, and our Rummage Sale (and all that comes with it) have been very strong. It is part of our parish's spiritual DNA to be resourceful in using what we have to “make good”, not just “make do”. This is one of God's “perfect gifts.”

As we look ahead to 2022 our financial picture is unclear. Here are several of the details:

- For the past two years we have received **\$28,000 each year from the federal Paycheck Protection Program** to support our staff salaries; that funding is not available in 2022.
- Prior to COVID two of our large income categories were **Parish House use by outside groups - \$10,000; and Sunday collection plate offerings (not pledge) - \$16,000.** This income was greatly reduced in the pandemic. We hope that funding will return, but we don't know when that will happen.

- **In 2021 we had 61 households make a pledge of financial support - \$163,790 in total.** Over the course of this year, we have had several people die or move away which will leave us without their support in 2022, even as we have had a few new people join us. **Pledges are always our primary and most important source of income.**

The Vestry and I are asking you to make a strong and generous statement of support through your pledge this year. When we pledge, we are not just making a contribution to an organization; we are giving thanks to God for all God's gifts and blessings to us. Your pledge of support means that All Saints' will be able to continue to be a community that nurtures your faith and connection to God, as well as reaching out to our surrounding communities.

If you have pledged in the past, thank you so much! Please consider what increase might be possible for you in 2022.

If you have not pledged before, or have not done so in a while, we invite you to express your faith, gratitude, and support by making a pledge - a tangible statement that also benefits others.

Every pledge is a gift from God that we appreciate and cherish because it comes from you and is heartfelt. Please read the accompanying brochure and fill out the enclosed pledge form and return it to the Church by December 1st. You may also make a pledge through a secure portal on our church website www.allsaintsmillington.org.

We do not know what comes next – in life, in the world, in this pandemic. But what we do know is that there is the future, and God is in it – with us and for us. And with your generous financial support, with your participation, and with your faith, love, and prayers we will be ready to meet God's future with joy and with hope.

Thank you for being one of God's faithful and perfect gifts.

Blessings,

Vicki+

The Rev. Victoria Geer McGrath, *Rector*