

RECTOR'S REPORT

The Rev. Paul Stephens

2015 was a great year in the life of All Saints'. Our parish is healthy and its members engaged in God's work in the kingdom. We are blessed to have experienced and wise lay leaders, volunteers and staff.

Specifics about the work accomplished in 2015 are found in the reports of committees and commissions detailed in this document. I'm thankful for all the work accomplished by many hands. Here are some of the highlights from my perspective:

- **Worship:** Our number 1 programming focus is gathering to worship God. As people of faith we are fed by gathering in community around God's altar. On Sundays during 2015, we celebrated Eucharist 114 times and had an average attendance of 163, down slightly from the previous year. Our healing service on Wednesdays has a faithful core group. All told we celebrated Eucharist 56 times on weekdays, and took communion to persons at home, in nursing homes, retirement centers and the hospital a total of 80 times. The Daily Office was prayed 24 times on Sundays and 29 times during the week. We had two weddings and 3 funerals during the year.
- **Pastoral Care:** I'm most grateful for the efforts of Vicky Vance and the CARE team for the host of pastoral care services – prayers, meals, visits, calls, cards, flowers, transportation, etc. – offered to our members. Their hard work ensured that those in need were cared for. I'm also grateful to the ECW whose members purchased and cooked meals that could be delivered to those in need. Many others assisted our wedding/funeral committee so as to provide care and assistance to families. Several have committed to participate in pastoral care training which will begin in February.
- **Christian Formation:** Eleven persons (4 youth and 7 adults) were confirmed by Bishop Seage during his first official visit to All Saints' as Bishop. During the year we baptized 8 children and adults. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd continues to provide our youngest members with a solid foundation on which to build an active faith. The youth Sunday school class has delved into current events and searched to connect those events with our youth's faith journey. The lectionary class, led by Les Alvis, is thriving! Thanks to all who spend many hours each week ensuring that our formation opportunities are meaningful and rich. I hope you will renew your efforts to participate in these offerings.
- **Outreach:** 1,902 Saints' Brew volunteers served a total of 18,125 meals during the year. Since 2010, those volunteers have served over 100,000 meals to our guests. Because of your generosity I was able to provide over \$22,000 worth of temporary housing, food, medicine, transportation, medical care, utility assistance and other pious and charitable support to many persons in need, both within and without our parish.

- **Christian Stewardship:** Your faithfulness in giving allowed the parish to make major strides on numerous fronts. On the operating side, we anticipated that we would receive \$554,440 in total revenue for the year. We exceeded that number by approximately \$4,000. Your generosity together with careful management of expenses allowed us to end the year with a \$19,400 surplus (this after reserving almost \$7,500 for enhanced programming initiatives!). On the capital campaign side, we reduced the outstanding balance of our building note by over \$166,700. We're very grateful to those who made special gifts which allowed us to apply additional funds directly to the principal balance of the note.
- **Communication:** Over the past couple of years we've worked hard to develop new and improved methods and avenues for communicating news and events to members of our parish, and beyond. Tommie, Nancy and Jessica have carried most of that load with ease and aplomb. I appreciate them taking on this additional work and doing it so well.

I offer a special thank you to our Wardens, Vestry, Officers and Staff for their individual and collective work and, in some cases, sacrifice to ensure that our parish continues to thrive and grow.

As I begin my 8th year as your Rector, I'm grateful for the prayers and support you've offered to me and my family. Martha and I feel those prayers and appreciate your kindness and generosity. I am also thankful for the opportunity (and wonderful purse) to take a sabbatical this past summer. It was a life-changing event!

Remember, life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love and make haste to be kind. Shalom.