

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Les Alvis & Stephen King

Like almost every other facet of the church in 2020, the work of the Stewardship Committee was disrupted by the pandemic. We had planned to host another major parish-wide gathering in August as we did in 2019 with a catered meal and a program focusing on the past 150 years of All Saints' and what will be required to step into the next 150 years, starting with 2021.

These plans were scuttled by our inability to gather, so we pivoted to a combination of online communications and hard copy mail-outs to every household in the parish. In an effort styled "Next150" we employed as the central information piece our resource "Essential Facts about Our Financial Needs for 2021" which presented plain facts in the same format that has prompted generous responses in prior years. This was augmented by regular Thursday emails to the parish during November and December that included creative "whiteboard" videos produced by Mark Maharrey, Carlton Wall and Dinetia Newman, to whom we're particularly grateful.

As of January 31, 2021, the response to the Next150 effort has fallen short of needs. Parishioners have made 89 pledges to the 2021 Operating Fund totaling \$468,178.04, compared to a total 2021 need of \$525,000. The shortfall was even more pronounced for ongoing Debt Reduction needs. Those who responded answered the call, and we're deeply thankful for the generosity shown. But there remain many who haven't responded, and as a result the Vestry will face some challenges on each front—Operating and Debt Reduction—this year.

While it's true that the pandemic has placed stresses on churches everywhere, both in terms of participation and financial support, that mere fact doesn't diminish or postpone our mutual responsibility to meet All Saints' financial needs in the coming year. The "Essential Facts" resource is still pertinent, and it can still be found on the home page of All Saints' web site. Those who haven't yet made a pledge to the 2021 Operating Fund and who don't have an active five-year pledge to Debt Reduction are urged to revisit it.

Stewardship efforts are frequently couched in terms of time, talent and money. Every parishioner should engage and re-engage all three now. Stated differently, the pandemic hasn't put the church on hiatus, and we as an entire parish need not allow our stewardship of time, talent and money to suggest that it has.

Stewardship Committee Members:

Les Alvis*

Mike Fitzpatrick

Mickey Gray

Stephen King*

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Mary Jane Meadows

Bud Nelson

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Fred Page

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