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“God’s plan for our future is here. Grab it!”

As All Saints Episcopal Church continues in its dynamic transition period to seek a new priest and rector to lead our parish into the future, we are seeking to continue to build a stronger financial base to underwrite and support our ministry opportunities in this vibrant city of Fort Lauderdale. While we increased our financial pledge base from 2014 to 2015, we *did not secure* enough pledge income to underwrite the operating costs of our annual budget.

As we move toward calling our new rector, we seek to raise our pledge commitment within the parish to cover the costs of providing ministry to our church family and to our community, without “dipping” into our “savings account” or endowment interest income. At this point *41% of our members pledge* to the operating budget of All Saints Church. That means 41% of the members of this parish pay for the clergy, musicians, staff, air conditioning, lights, insurance and other operating expenses of the parish. Unfortunately, that means 59% of the people who consider themselves members are not contributing to the operating expenses or ministries.

We invite you to pledge your financial commitment to All Saints Episcopal Church for the coming budget year. We are striving for 100% commitment from our 387 members of the congregation. With whole hearted commitment we can meet our needs and underwrite the \$700,000 it takes to operate our parish and sustain our ministries.

*W. Lynn McLaughlin and
David Webb*



When it comes down to it, we get a very high return on the money we invest At All Saints – loving caring people, hugs and kisses on Sunday mornings, visiting and talking to wonderful friends, joyously singing with our friends, hearing God speak through our outstanding choir (thank you, Daniel), the ambience of our building and stained glass windows.

We go to church because we love it and we are richly rewarded.

It is also akin to having an insurance policy. Where did thousands of people rush to when 911 occurred? These folks rarely, if ever set foot in church on Sundays. But typical, one tragedy happens or a joyous occurs and we want to share it and we need a church family. Happily, All Saints is our church family.

If we are you going to avail ourselves of these luxuries (like everything else in life), we must pay for it and it is expensive. It takes our time, talent, and, last but not least, our financial resources. We are urged not to take our religion casually. We are also urged not to take lightly the responsibilities of our church. It is an imperative that we financially support our church home.

Some thoughts from a class on financial security: at the end of the three-day seminar, the instructor, hardly a religious man, made a remarkable statement, "if you are going to be financially successful, you must understand giving away money. Start now. Every dollar you make, give 10% of it to wherever it is you get your spiritual sustenance." "You must learn to give and give generously or your financial life will always be difficult."

We do not give the church whatever is left over. We prioritize our giving. Our church family comes first.

Frank Asterita



As an Episcopalian I have come to learn the importance and significance of taking responsibility for the Church community that I embrace as a member. I have experienced great joy through All Saints and it makes me feel so good when I know I can help further the mission of our wonderful Church. One important way that I can do this is to make my pledge every year. By making a pledge I know that I am helping All Saints to be able to make plans for the future, and that those plans will include me as a member. By making a pledge I am taking responsibility for my Church and for myself.

Terry Colli
Jerry Oshinski



All Saints has become a pillar in our lives and we consider pledging an important means to ensuring that pillar remains strong. All Saints cannot achieve the goals we have set for ourselves unless it has the necessary resources. Those include the integrity of our beautiful building and its grounds, the magnificent music, outreach to the many members of our community who are in need, as well as providing support to all of our congregation who may be in need of comfort.

Jerry and I are truly blessed to be a part of the All Saints family; our pledge is a small contribution towards its continuing health.

Alan Waufle



The Stewardship Campaign this year has as its theme.... ["God's plan for our future is here. Grab It!"](#) I might add a second line...."and we all can do it, but only if something is there to grab onto!" All Saints is a wonderful mix of people. Each of us takes away something different each week that gives us strength, peace, comfort, hope and much more. Have you considered what it would be like without everything that All Saints gives back on a weekly, perhaps daily basis?

As a parishioner-directed institution, whatever All Saints can provide us, it is made possible only with the support of us all. Planning and providing the programs and classes, the music and the religious services, can only be done if we know the support will be there to make it happen.....to give us what we can grab onto in the coming months of our spiritual needs.

Take a moment to think of what you get from All Saints and consider what you can do to ensure that your "something" will be there when the time comes. Please join me and other parishioners with an annual pledge to make it happen.

Jack Gillis

Sometimes it's fun to experiment in the kitchen and just throw some favorite ingredients together and see how it turns out. But for important meals, especially for large gatherings, it pays to have some recipes, a couple of lists, and an overall plan. It probably makes sense to know your budget first. Without these, the event can turn into a disaster.



It is much the same for churches. Without a budget, it is difficult to do much planning. Without knowing what can be spent, we can't make commitments to support outreach or even know if we can pay the light bill. Pledging makes this budgeting and planning possible.

Every person who walks through the doors of our beloved All Saints, whether for the first time, or the two-thousandth time (yes, a few have been here that long), is impacted by the planning and the budgeting process. Listen to the music; walk the beautiful grounds; feel the comfort of the air conditioning; read your bulletin by the electric lights; listen to the sermon, drink the coffee after the service; attend a class. There is much we take for granted. Stewardship allows us to plan, operate and provide.

Consider also all the people who may not actually walk through our doors on Sundays but are still impacted by All Saints: the families who are served by HOPE South Florida and our Beds Around the Altar program; the men, women and children who depend on the Jubilee Center or St. Laurence Chapel for assistance; and, numerous others served by ministries supported by Episcopal Charities. Many of our ministries receive funds directly from our contributions.

When we all pledge, it is easy to plan. Without our pledges, there can be no plan. As we search for a new rector to lead this holy place, it is more important than ever to show her or him that everyone counts and everyone participates in the support of everything we are and everything we do.

Every action has a direct consequence. Every INACTION has a direct consequence. It's our future, and the future of those brothers and sisters around us. [Grab it!](#)

The Price-Wincko Family

Now, more than ever, the commitment to support our beloved All Saints Episcopal Church, is important to our family as the



parish continues on this transition journey and begins the earnest work of calling a new Rector who will serve as our pastor and priest. All Saints has been an integral part of our family life for over 60 years, at one point having four generations worshipping and participating in this parish life. All major family events, including baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals, have occurred here at All Saints, and three members of our family now rest in the Columbarium.

Most of all, It is important to us that our younger family members continue in the tradition of service to Our Lord Jesus Christ through activities such as serving as acolytes and participating in parish clean-up days and the annual boat parade as they continue on their spiritual formation and journey. In the past, the adults in our family have participated in teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, as well as served on the Vestry and as Assistant Treasurer. We have been blessed throughout our years at All Saints and consider this parish family as an extension of our own family. It is vitally important that we and all parishioners support the parish with our treasure in the form of a financial commitment and our talents as we look forward to new and exciting days ahead at All Saints.

Elaine Grossman

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion about the importance of pledging, particularly for 2016.

We are in search of a priest that will feel very comfortable and invigorated by our very diverse membership and goals. I think most would agree that we were blessed with a very unusual priest who is still missed and whose sermons still resonate in our hearts and minds. He will be a tough act to follow.



If all families understand the importance of next year's pledge, the potential candidates will have a very good sense of our commitment to God, the church and our priest.

What does it cost?

Have you ever considered what “it costs” to support the ministry that All Saints Episcopal Church offers to this community? The clergy and staff, the insurance and utilities, the maintenance and building improvements, and other operating expenses exceed \$700,000 per year.

Who pays for it?

There are 387 households on our membership list. If each household paid an equal share of the operating costs of All Saints Church, that annual cost per household would be \$1,810. The average pledge to the operating account at All Saints Church is \$2,647 per household. Unfortunately, only 41% of our membership pledges to the operating budget. That means 59% of our members do not financially support the parish. Our hope is that more of our membership will feel the importance of financially supporting our church family.

How might it be different?

If the operating expenses (\$700,000) were divided equally among the **pledging members** of All Saints Church (160 households), the annual pledge from each of those households would need to be \$4,375.

We are urging every member of All Saints Church to feel compelled and committed to underwrite the costs of our building and property, our clergy and staff, and our outreach to the community. That annual amount is \$700,000. In recent past years, our membership community has underwritten only \$400,000 of that total. We are a long way from “paying our own way.” So, for those who “enjoy” Sunday mornings (the music, the liturgy, the preaching, the lights and air conditioning” and all those other things that we know costs money to provide,) we trust that you are part of those member who are paying for those costs.

When we eat in restaurants, we don't expect to eat there for “free” and just leave a tip (maybe.) If we go to a performance at the Broward Center or Parker Playhouse, we don't expect to see the “show” for free and just buy a beverage as gratitude for being there. If we go to a professional ball game, we don't expect to do so without paying the price of admission..... Why do some people who join you in church each Sunday feel as though they can just be there to enjoy?? We are urging all those who are members of All Saints Episcopal Church to join in paying the cost of ministry. Admission is not just sitting in the pews. We have an extensive outreach plan, buildings to keep up, wonderful giving, loving community, awesome pastoral care that many persons enjoy with only a portion of our membership contributing to it. Would we still come to All Saints Episcopal Church if there were no lights, no A/C, no music? Would we all enjoy our liturgy without these comforts? Probably not.

What's the difference between a pledge and proportional giving? How do I decide how much to pledge?

Any intentional or regular giving of a specific amount of money is, in a way, "proportional" giving. The proportion may be modest or unconscious.

The Bible suggests the "tithe", that is to give a tenth of what you have received from God, back to God. One tenth! Ten Percent!! The Bible sets the bar very high, maybe too high for most of us to think about at first.

For many devoted givers, the tithe or ten percent gift to the church comes about after years of striving to increase or after real sacrifice. Ten percent of one's income is substantial whether that income is large or small. Ten percent is ten percent.

If you are new to proportional given, consider these guidelines in determining your pledge to All Saints Operating Budget.

1. Write down the amount of your anticipated 2016 income. (You may choose to consider "before tax" income or after tax.)
2. If you are new to the idea of proportional giving, pick a percent amount (2.6% is the national average contribution to churches across the county.) If you gave a proportion of your income last year, try adding 1% to that amount for the coming church year.

How do you feel about this number? Is it proportional with the importance of God in your life? Is it proportional with the importance of All Saints Episcopal Church in your life? How is it proportional to the other ways you spend your money?

Or, take a look at your check book. How does your contribution to All Saints compare to the other ways you spend your money?" Often a check book can point you to priorities within your own life.' Where is All Saints Episcopal Church in your priorities?

Your honest answers to the questions above will help point you in the direction of your contributions to God's Plan for Our Future.

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Summary of Giving 2015

Households	Range of Pledge	Total Pledged
6	\$7,000 and higher	\$ 67,020.00
10	\$5,000 to \$6,999	\$ 104,300.00
27	\$3,000 to \$4,999	\$ 101,590.00
79	\$1,000 to \$2,999	\$ 133,129.00
38	\$1 to \$999	\$ 17,506.00
160		\$ 423,545.00
58	0	\$ 17,983.00
169	neither give nor pledge	0

Where do you fit in to this picture?



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