



And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces. Luke 9:16-17, NRSV

November 9, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

The feeding of the multitudes appears in three of the four gospels. Our pledge campaign theme, *More Than Enough*, comes from the end of Luke's version of this familiar story. The disciples panic when Jesus tells them, "You give them something to eat," because they cannot see how they can feed all the crowds of Jesus' followers. But Jesus soothes their fears of "not enough" and transforms the meager five loaves and two fish into *More Than Enough* with the help of community. Responding to Jesus' request, the crowd turns pockets inside out, shakes out their blankets, and rummages through their parcels to find enough to take care of the needs of the community. And what do they realize? That by the miracle of faith and the action of love, there is *More Than Enough*!

Serving on Vestry can be like what the disciples experienced that day. Alone and individually, each of us wonders whether we have enough and how we can meet the needs of our physical campus and our congregational family, and also be a refuge and resource in our community. And yet, time and again over the past two years you have shown us that together, the people of All Saints are capable of *More Than Enough*. When we join in giving from joy and love rather than fear and scarcity, we do great, amazing things.

Our recovery from the arson and vandalism attack in 2020 and a pandemic that sent us reeling is the story of transformation from sadness, anger, and devastation to joy, hope and wonder. The road from smoky ruin to a restored, refurbished church was difficult. But people gave of their *Time*, to inventory and document every item that needed replacement or restoration. Many gave of their *Talent*, to clean, design and replace that which was destroyed and manage the burden of administration and oversight. Others gave of their *Treasure* to ensure our deductible was met, and that we could leverage the repairs to complete additional needed renovations like the mosaic wall, sanctuary lighting and restrooms. These are examples of what can be accomplished as a beloved community who have faith in God and one another. We each contribute to create abundance and new life out of uncertainty. We have borne witness that *Time*, *Talent* and *Treasure* provide *More Than Enough*. Every gift is a miracle, a chance to change the world. And every gift is the love that "always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." (1 Corinthians 13:7)

What is the font of your contribution of *Time*, *Talent*, and *Treasure*? Do you see limited resources and scarcity? Do you give with a sense that what you possess must be protected? Or, as one of a beloved community and partner in faith, can you believe Jesus' promise and live in the certainty that Jesus will make us *More Than Enough*? This perspective is challenging, but embracing it moves us from fearfulness to faith, from scarcity to abundance, from acquiring to giving, from obligation to joy, from owner to steward, and from transaction to transformation.

We ask that you join us with a pledge of your *Time, Talent, and Treasure* to All Saints, knowing that together, with Jesus' blessing, we are *More Than Enough*. Please pray with us as we launch our annual gathering of gifts and gratitude, as you consider how you will make your gift of *Treasure* with a pledge to All Saints.

In the spirit of Jesus' love,
The Vestry of All Saints Episcopal Church



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Class of '22



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