



Set Free to Serve

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

APRIL 20, 2018



The Parish Hall is at the center of fellowship events at All Saints'.

- Rev. Nancy Cox



For the 9am service the Parish Hall provides an open, light-filled space for us to gather, worship and sing while being surrounded by the beauty of God's creation.

- Julia Davison



This church kitchen is like the kitchen in your house. It is where a lot of relationships develop.

- Susan Yelton



IN THIS ISSUE: EVERYONE CAN GET INVOLVED!

SPIRITUAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

OUR STORIES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Everyone Can Get Involved!

All of us are called to participate in this mission, and as a collective group we can achieve great things.

Your participation is needed for the following:

- ♦ *Praying for our church, its mission and ministry*
- ♦ *Asking questions and sharing your enthusiasm with other church members as we travel this journey together over the next 3 years*
- ♦ *Reviewing your finances and considering what you can pledge over the next 3 years or as a one-time gift to the campaign*
- ♦ *Celebrating with us on Commitment Sunday, April 29th*
- ♦ *Jumping in and seeing what God can do in and through you!*

"...let us strip off every weight that slows us down... and run with endurance the race..." - Hebrews 12:1

A Message From Your Campaign Directors

As this newsletter goes to press, we are in the middle of an exciting time at All Saints'! In a short period, we have the opportunity to be free of our debt and "Set Free to Serve." With so much happening, we want to let you know the schedule of events for the remainder of the Capital Campaign.

Sunday, April 29: *Commitment Sunday*. We will submit our pledge cards during the 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:10 a.m. services. You will receive a blank pledge card, an envelope, and a pen from the ushers. We will complete the cards during a musical interlude and then place the pledge cards in offertory plates.

Sunday, May 6: The Campaign Directors will announce the progress of the capital campaign at all services.

Tuesday, May 15: First Fruits materials will be mailed to everyone. These materials will explain the process of our 3-year commitments and an envelope for our first donations.


Sunday, May 20: *Pentecost Sunday/First Fruits Sunday*. We officially begin our donations for the 3-year capital campaign at all services.

Sunday, May 20: 5:00 p.m. - Our campaign closing celebration!

We hope you will be able to participate in all the above with your prayers and attendance. We look forward to the many opportunities we will have for ministry and mission as we are "Set Free to Serve!"

Yours in faith,

Karen Robinson
Brenda and Scott Trott
Shelley and Jim Williams

		All Saints' Episcopal Church: Capital Campaign Pledge Card May 2018 - April 2021 Commitment Sunday: April 29, 2018	
With gratitude for God's goodness, I/we (print name): _____ wish to contribute a total pledge of \$ _____ over a three-year period to the 2018-2021 <i>Set Free to Serve</i> Capital Campaign.			
I/we plan to fulfill this pledge: weekly _____, monthly _____, semi-annually _____, annually _____, one-time gift _____.			
Name: _____		Phone: _____	
Address: _____		Email: _____	
In Memory of: _____		In Thanksgiving for: _____	
Signature _____		Signature _____ Date _____	

Children and Youth

Children's Sunday School lessons this spring have focused on the ways we are called to care for and share the many gifts of God. Topics included the idea of stewardship, recognizing their individual gifts from God, and how All Saints' does great things in our community. Children in Catechesis Level 2 brainstormed ways to support the capital campaign, such as family lemonade stands or yard sales of unwanted toys. Earth Day Work Day, in collaboration with the Gardens of All Saints', gave children and their families a hands-on stewardship experience. They planted native grasses on All Saints' property to expand the North Carolina Butterfly Highway.

Our Youth will coordinate a Parents' Date Night on Saturday, April 28. They are also planning a dog wash and a car wash.



God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. - Hebrews 6:10

Why?

Why are we doing this Capital Campaign? The quick answer is: to pay off the debt.

The DEEPER answer is that we are Resurrection people, we believe and we have seen God bring hope out of despair, make a way where there seems to be no way and bring life out of death. For more than 137 years, the people of All Saints', later joined by the people of St. James, have offered this answer to the question WHY? "We are called to love God and love each other, to be the people of God in this place and at this time, to love as God loves."

HOW do we do that? On the night before he died for us, Jesus gave the commandment that those who follow should love one another and showed them how to love by serving. And so, we serve. This congregation serves. It is who we are, and how we are known in this community. We have continued to serve, and expand how we serve, even in the midst of our current financial challenges. In 2014, we opened a preschool that is serving the poorest of the poor. Through that preschool we are changing the future for those children.

We know that the reason *why* is not to pay bills, but to love like God loves. We can do that more fully and more freely when we are not weighted down with debt. So WHAT we need to do now is support the capital campaign with our generous, joyful pledges so that we can be set free from the weight of the debt to serve even more faithfully.

When we are *set free*, we will continue to ask: How do we love like God loves? We will watch for God's leading as we do what we believe we are called to do.

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.
- 2 Corinthians 9:8

Ways to Give

From the perspective of the gospel, fundraising is not a response to a crisis. It is first and foremost a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. - Henri J. M. Nouwen

Raising the money to pay down our debt is an ambitious undertaking, yet with the generosity of the matching of an anonymous donor this task seems less arduous. To reach the final goal of paying down the debt, each one of us in the All Saints' community will need to prayerfully consider their contribution in a meaningful and sacrificial way.

As you consider what you and your family will commit to contributing, please keep in mind that gifts can come in many forms. Ways to give can include:

- CASH
- REAL ESTATE
- ANTIQUES
- JEWELRY
- INCOME TAX REFUNDS
- STOCKS OR BONDS
- LIFE INSURANCE
- WORKS OF ART
- COIN OR STAMP COLLECTIONS
- REVOCABLE OR IRREVOCABLE TRUSTS

Spiritual Life Activities

"Tree of Seasons "



"Tree of Seasons" is inspired by Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. It is a special white tree covered in doves, and it represents the seasons in our spiritual life. We are now in a season of giving to reduce our debt, thus freeing All Saints' for greater mission and ministry. The doves represent prayers, praises, needs and concerns that we offer to Jesus. You are encouraged to participate by reading and acting on the directions that are placed by the tree, along with doves for you to personalize.

Christian Education

Every Sunday through May 6, there will be a Bible Study during the Christian Education hour. Based on passages from Luke's Gospel, the sessions will examine stewardship. Sue Gelarden is leading the study.

Daily Devotionals

Every member is receiving a daily devotional via email (or U.S. mail if email is not active). You are invited to spend a few minutes each day reading, thinking about, and praying over the devotionals.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the goal of this capital campaign?

Our goal is to reduce or eliminate our present debt, which currently stands at approximately \$1.7 million.

How will this "set us free to serve"?

Our mortgage payment currently consumes more than 20% of our annual spending, significantly limiting our options for new initiatives in mission and ministry. A successful campaign will allow us to direct money that currently goes to the mortgage, to our mission and ministry in our communities.

What if I am not able to make a major gift; how would my small gift make any difference?

Every gift is important. Every dollar counts as we seek to reach the minimum match threshold. If we have pledges above the \$500,000 minimum, your dollar will count twice. Looking long term, every dollar put against the principal today saves two dollars in future mortgage payments. With the match, your gift today is immediately doubled, and future savings to All Saints' make it double again.

How will I know what to give?

God is gracious and generous. Begin in prayer asking, *"Gracious God, what do you want to do through me?"* God knows your situation even better than you do and can be counted on to lead you appropriately. Learn more about the difference your pledge can make, listen and ask questions. Continue in prayer, do not rush to a determination, allow God to lead your decision. You will know that you have received your answer when you have peace with your decision.

Friends and Alumni Update

We thank God every time we remember you. In all our prayers for all of you, we always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. - Philippians 1:3-5

Over the last few weeks, the Friends and Alumni Team has been working diligently to contact friends and former members of All Saints' and tell them about the capital campaign. They have been asked to pray that God will bless our efforts. We are also asking these friends and former members to prayerfully consider a gift or pledge to the campaign that may be given in honor or memory of someone dear to them at All Saints'. The goal is to include these gifts with all that are lifted up on Commitment Sunday, April 29.



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Want to learn more about the capital campaign, hear the wonderful audio stories, read the full FAQ's and more?

Visit the Set Free to Serve page on the church's website at www.allsaintsconcord.org/set-free-to-serve.

Our Story: Karen & Mark Robinson

When we heard that the church would be raising money to free us from debt and allow us to be "Set Free to Serve" we immediately began to think about all we can do for ministry and mission with that kind of extra money. Little by little, we have grown in our stewardship journey and now in 2018, this opportunity gives us another chance to grow.

Mark and I have discussed a figure for our commitment and how we will make our pledge. This came from our review of our finances--our "spreadsheet." But once Mark and I decide on the amount, how do we give joyfully? St. Paul writes "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." So again, how do we give joyfully? How do we become a cheerful giver? How do we give with our hearts? We will be thinking of all the ministries that All Saints' provides and the people that make up this church. We will think of the many dear friends here at All Saints' who have celebrated the good times and continue to pray and support us in the tough times.

This is how Mark and I will make our commitment to this Capital Campaign: With gratitude for our many blessings, with thanksgiving for the ministry and mission of this church, and above all with joy.

Vision Awareness Gatherings

There have been several Vision Awareness gatherings over the last few weeks. These gatherings have given parishioners more details about the capital campaign. The gatherings have provided an ideal setting to ask questions, discuss future possibilities, and receive answers. In addition, some of the gatherings have included individual Stewardship stories and a slide show of photos taken of the old Parish Hall. These gatherings were well-planned and well-attended events that were informative and inspirational.