

STEWARDSHIP 2009

celebrate



Give Thanks!

ALL SAINTS PARISH

STEWARDSHIP

is everything we do after we say,
“we believe ...”

“Being a good steward means being aware of the fact that God has given us all that we have and developing the practice of thankfulness and generosity. God’s grace – God’s unearned, undeserved and unconditional love for us – invites, even demands a life of thankfulness and praise.”

– Linda Grenz, *Faith-based Stewardship:
A Fresh Perspective on Congregational Giving*



REJOICE

and Be Thankful...

In an article in *Episcopal Life*, Bishop Cederholm writes about being at a service in which at the Offertory, two clowns came at the end of the procession down the aisle, one pushing the other in a wheelbarrow.

“No explanations were needed,” he says. “In response to the Word of God and in preparation for receiving the gifts of God at the Eucharist, we offer our whole selves to God – not just our money. Clearly the clowns were saying without words what the ‘Hokey Pokey’ song celebrates: ‘You put your whole self in’ – in thankfulness and joy for the love of God in Christ Jesus for us and the blessings we have received in life and creation through God’s unconditional love for all.

We may not think of giving money – or time – to the church as an occasion for joy. Yet giving of ourselves and our substance always has the potential to transform us. It is different from giving to philanthropic institutions (although we do that, too) because it is clearly about responding to God, about responding to God’s incredible love with our own. And where there is love, there is a deep sense of thanksgiving and joy.

Pledging, then, is a time to rejoice. A pledge is a commitment in which each of us affirms membership in this blessed community of All Saints, promising to help it fulfill God’s mission of peace, justice and compassion. It includes our intent to give money, since that is the way our world works. But it also includes a prayerful consideration of what we might give of our time, using our talents. The decision is made in our hearts – as St. Paul says, “Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And 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 9:7-8)

– *Marianne Evett*
Chair, Stewardship Committee

OFFERING THANKS AND PRAISE

"I began coming to All Saints regularly about 15 years ago.

Despite living a moral and productive life as a doctor, antiviolence advocate, husband, father and friend, I was curious about the spiritual world and, unbeknownst to me, wishing for a loving relationship with God. I was impressed then and am continually impressed that All Saints attracts large numbers of sane, tolerant, kind people who not only believe in God but also have a real relationship with God.

Over time I went through several stages of spiritual growth. I moved from feeling God's love to believing that God was real. I went from feeling peace when meditating to feeling peace most of the time. I finally said to God, "I trust you, so You can change me in anyway you want." God changed me. He rid me of most of my fear, depression, anger and desire for fame, admiration and security. He made me a very happy man."

— Peter Stringham



My family and I have found All Saints to be a warm and welcoming community.



Their emphasis on faith formation and instruction, which begins with young children, is indicative of the values of this parish. The clergy and fellow members of the congregation truly believe in and work toward a spirit of inclusiveness in worship services, parish activities and Christian education programs. We are blessed to be part of this wonderful community.

— Mary Ann Neary



*This summer
ic and Fun E*

A multigenerational and served lunch for July. By the end of lunch-making machines with some of group lead the camp sponsored outing to then on a nature wa

The B-SAFE week summer. We saw n they were always th look around and see ery kid's face. My fa every lunch we serv I can't wait to do it

WITNESS FOR GOD'S ABUNDANCE

For the last few years I have felt an itch that I could not scratch.

The enormity of the destruction and need in the Gulf Coast after Katrina seemed beyond belief, and, as an American, I felt that part of me was actually wounded. I couldn't imagine my whole way of life being swept away in a storm. I've always loved working with my hands, and in this case, I felt the need to do something physical, to participate in the process of rebuilding. Our mission trip to New Orleans this spring was a great learning experience for me on so many levels. The vitality, spirit and effort of those coming from all over this country to help was humbling and inspirational. It wasn't so much what we did, but that we did it. Thank you, All Saints Parish, for providing us with the framework which allows our faith community to participate in so many life-affirming efforts.



– Ginny Adams

My sister Ellie and I helped at the Bishop's Summer Academic Enrichment (B-SAFE) program for 6-13 year olds in Roxbury.

A small group from All Saints prepared for the 80 campers, for one week in the week, our team was a well-oiled, machine! After lunch each day we read to the younger kids and on Friday our trip on an All Saint's organized and to the DeCordova Sculpture Park and walk at Walden Pond.



It was one of the best parts of our camp. Many of the same kids each day, and thrilled to see us. Every day we could see the genuineness and sincerity in ev-

er favorite moment was when the entire camp yelled in unison "Thank you for the food!" after we served. B-SAFE allowed us to see and feel the direct results of our community service efforts; we'll be back again next summer!

– Amy Bridge

PLEDGING Q&A

...our motivation for giving money should be based on our need to respond to God's gifts, not on the church's need to receive our gifts.

This distinction is major. Our motivation for giving is not the church's need, no matter how worthy that need might be. It's not that the church doesn't have many needs – such as paying bills and salaries, supporting the mission of justice and service of the poor. These are all legitimate needs – but they are not the main reason to make a stewardship commitment. The reason to do so is to respond in love to the abundance of blessings that God has given me by giving back to God from my very essence. What better way is there to respond to abundance than by being lavish in my gift back to God?
- *The Rev. David Killian*

What is a pledge?

A pledge is a promise to give a certain amount of money, time and/or talent over the coming year to All Saints Parish. Our gifts make possible the mission and ministries of this blessed community of All Saints Brookline and contribute to the work of the Episcopal church in the world.

Why make a pledge?

In making a pledge, we make a promise; the congregation and those we serve beyond ourselves count on that promise. The amount of money pledged determines how the Vestry plans and implements the annual parish operating budget. A pledge, therefore, is a commitment to share in supporting the needs and helping the growth of this community of God. Our pledges unite us as part of the family of All Saints.

What is a faithful pledge?

From biblical times to the present day, the tithe (10% of your income) has had special significance for God's people. Our move toward tithing can come as a transforming experience in the way we think about money. We encourage giving intentionally the proportion of income to God's work that represents a meaningful commitment – one that entails personal risk and reflects our faith that God provides for all our needs. This year we are asking members to consider making at least a 1% increase in their annual giving. Pledges may be paid in installments – weekly, monthly, quarterly or whatever schedule is convenient. Through the ASP website, allsaintsbrookline.org, you may have a monthly amount deducted automatically from your bank account.

What if I can only pledge a small amount?

Every pledge counts! The challenge is not how much we give, but what the gift means to us. This is the message of the story of the widow's mite in the Gospel of Mark. We are to be faithful stewards of whatever God has provided.

What if my circumstances change during the year?

If your financial circumstances change, you may change the amount you have pledged by notifying the parish Treasurer. Because parish expenses continue throughout the year – salaries and bills need to be paid each month – pledges should be paid in a timely fashion. The Vestry should be made aware of any changes.

WAYS YOU CAN PLEDGE

Proportional Giving: Pledge a percentage of your income. Consider increasing your pledge this year by 1%.

Biblical Tithing: Pledge 10% of your income. This is the Biblical model of giving. Vestry members at All Saints have committed themselves annually to striving to reach this goal.

Radical Giving: A pledge that stretches your resources, demands sacrifice, and urges a reassessment of your priorities and commitments.

YOUR PLEDGE AS PERCENT OF INCOME

Income	2%	6%	10%	14%
\$10,000	\$200	\$600	\$1,000	\$1400
25,000	500	1,500	2,500	3,500
50,000	1,000	3,000	5,000	7,000
75,000	1,500	4,500	7,500	10,500
100,000	2,000	6,000	10,000	14,000



Please bring the enclosed pledge card to the altar on Gift Sunday, October 26, mail it to the office or make your pledge online at www.allsaintsbrookline.org. You may also arrange online for automated monthly pledge payments drawn from your checking account or credit card via our **ParishPay** service.

“Put your whole self in...”



Dr. Paul Farmer speaks to forum of 200 people before receiving the All Saints Spirituality and Justice Award.

Photo by Jean Stringham

*CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS!
Stewardship at All Saints Parish 2009*

“God’s grace – God’s unearned, undeserved and unconditional love for us – invites, even demands a life of thankfulness and praise.”

– From “Faith-Based Stewardship,” an article by the Rev. Linda Grenz, former Executive Director of Leader Resources

October 5 – Stewardship Sunday

Immediately following the conclusion of our 10:30 worship, all are invited to a parish luncheon and conversation about the Millennium Development Goals.

*October 12 – Feast of St. Francis and Blessing of the
Animals*

We celebrate our sacred connection to all living things.

October 19 – Children’s Sabbath

We renew our call to care, protect, and advocate for children, in this parish and beyond.

October 26 – Gift Sunday

We make pledges of time, talent and treasure for 2009.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)

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