

# All Saints Vestry

**Sheri Benninghoven**,  
Senior Warden

**Chip Nichols**, Junior  
Warden

**Fred Allen**, Treasurer

**Marni McGee**, Clerk

**Bitsy Bacon**

**Suzi Ballard**

**Sharon Bifano**

**Kent Damon**

**Janet Eaton**

**Steb Chandor**

**Sally Green**

**Joe Jannotta**

**Ladeen Miller**

**J.B. Rodgers**

**Nathan Sigler**

**The Rev. Jeffrey Bullock**

## The Role of Endowment, Invested Reserves, Heritage Society

The graphs on the front of the newsletter include some interesting numbers. What's not shown and which we'll profile in a future *Parish Notes* are the investment accounts of the church. You'll see a column of "income" that is our allocation from our investment accounts and endowment. We have a conservative formula we use each year to determine how much we expect we will draw from our invested reserves. These reserves are overseen by the Vestry's Investment Committee (ably chaired by former Senior Warden Tom Mack) and professionally managed by Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. Funds available for investing come from you: generous parishioners have left money for All Saints in their estate plans and we set aside any extra funds from our operating budget, if we're able. Would you like more information about the Heritage Society and how to remember All Saints in your plans? Just call the Church Office.

## Pledging v. Gifts

We are extremely grateful to each parishioner who provides a gift to the church to cover our operating costs. We're especially in need during this difficult budget year. Of course, it's the annual pledge upon which we plan for how much staff we can afford, determine the breadth of music efforts, the amount of Outreach, the level of maintenance, etc. The pledge is the "paycheck" from which we pay our bills. We are immensely grateful to all who pledge to All Saints and to those who offer generous gifts.

## Giving Really Is Good For You

*Sheri Benninghoven*  
Senior Warden

A few years ago, I began reading more about church stewardship programs in preparation for my Vestry service. I admit to a bit of skepticism about the message that giving is good for my soul and that I'd become closer to God by giving more generously. I thought maybe that notion was set forth by church budget elders from centuries ago.

Well, guess what: I'm here to tell you it's true. Don and I have, each year, substantially increased our All Saints pledge. We've also given more to the Outreach Golf Tournament, at Easter and Christmas, and more. We've occasionally had long talks about it, taken a deep breath now again, and decided it was the right thing to do.

I can tell you we've continued to be able to afford all that we need and want. More importantly, we have truly become so much closer to God. From reading the Bible to saying dinnertime grace to giving God more room in our hearts during Lent, we are both much closer to God through our giving. And He has blessed us with many, many riches in return.

## Pledging, Worship, Budgets, Outreach, Expenses, Formation . . .

No, it's not really that time of year when we begin our discussion with the parish about stewardship. However, it is time to have a sincere discussion about pledges, gifts and our budget, as well as our cornerstone efforts of Outreach, Formation and Worship.

The budget that was prepared by the Finance Committee and reviewed/adopted by the Vestry began the year out of balance in hopes that our pledge revenue would catch up. All

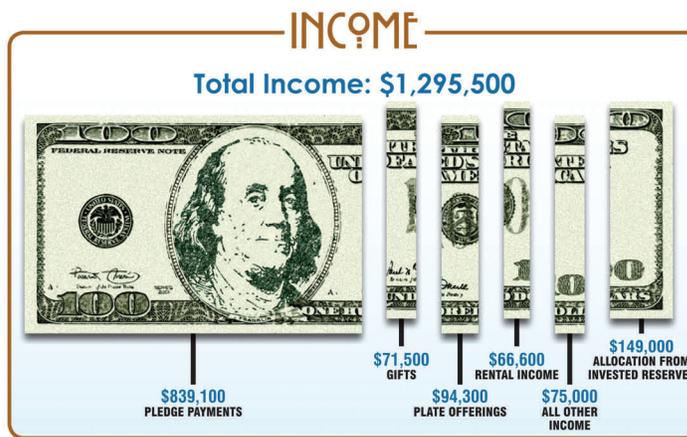
from a previously part-time one devoted to youth and family ministries. We created more opportunities for fellowship and we increased our education/formation efforts dramatically.

3. We continue to work hard to maintain the buildings and grounds of our extensive campus. With new roofs, massive tree trimming work, termite control, necessary upgrades to the Friendship Center and Parish School, and ongoing cleaning/painting, etc., our "property" costs are a large part of our annual budget.

4. The number of parishioners who promise to pay via pledge has gone down each year of the recession.

### Addressing The Deficit

For you math majors, you can quickly see the difference between what we expect to take in (above) versus what we expect to spend (below). The gap of roughly \$120,000 means



of the parishioners in these leadership positions have had extensive discussions since. The conclusion is that we need to convey to you several vital points about your All Saints operations and budget:

1. Over the past several years of the economic downturn, we realized we needed to closely monitor the budget and we have. More importantly, we've made substantial cuts in the operating budget, including laying off staff, delaying large expenses, etc.
2. We asked you about your priorities for All Saints and we've invested in those areas. For example, we created a full-time position

we need to begin now our discussion with the parish about these topics.

You'll be hearing more in the coming weeks and months. We welcome your comments and questions.

