



# All Saints' Episcopal Church

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[www.allsaintsbriarcliff.org](http://www.allsaintsbriarcliff.org)

Dear friends in Christ,

Happy new year to you. I am writing to encourage you as you consider making an annual financial commitment to All Saints'. Why give to All Saints'?

Over the course of the stewardship campaign, a number of your fellow congregation members wrote and spoke about why All Saints' was special to them. We are a wonderful church doing amazing things for God. I don't say that because I am your priest, I say it because it is what I see every day as we go about the business of being who Christ has called us to be. Our church is growing and developing in exciting new ways, and I am incredibly proud of what we are doing together.

We are growing. The Episcopal Church is facing challenging times in our region of the country, but our parish is growing and attracting new members. In 2018, our membership grew by 5%, and it grew by a similar percentage in 2017. The last two years have also seen All Saints' attract people under-30 for the first time in many years, a trend that is unusual and exciting in a suburban parish. People are attracted to All Saints' because of our commitment to Christ, to one another, and they are sustained through our worship, programs, and ministries. We must continue to invest in these with an eye on sustaining and encouraging this growth trend.

We are making a difference in our community. In addition to increasing our outreach budget by 10% in 2018, starting this year, we will be a hands-on partner in the Emergency Shelter that operates in the Ossining/Briarcliff area each winter, a decision that was made through the enthusiastic support of the outreach committee and vestry. In 2018 we spent over \$15,000 on outreach, the most in our history as a parish.

We are continuing the best of our legacy. As you know, Kinny Landrum, our wonderful and faithful organist/choirmaster of the last nineteen years has recently retired. To build on his ministry, we will need to hire a new organist/choirmaster. As a faithful and committed member of our church, and part of his spiritual practice, Kinny provided music ministry for less than the market rate. As we seek to attract an equally gifted musician and director, we will have to offer a higher salary.

If ever there were a time to double down on our generosity towards All Saints', our spiritual home, it is today. A clergy transition period is the ideal moment to strengthen our community, to show the support you share for the church. As you begin to discern where God is calling, it is important that you do so from a place of your greatest strength—fiscally strong and spiritually healthy. All Saints' ability to call a rector with experience, to call the ideal candidate, will only be enhanced by your generosity today. Few things attract a priest who is searching for a new call more than a parish that continues to thrive and flourish in the interim period.

We can foster a stellar future for the church we love. Perhaps you have always held back, considering when the right time might be to really invest in All Saints'. Perhaps you are waiting for the moment when your gift will really matter. That time is now. All signs point to a bright future for our beloved parish, and yet, we can only realize that future through our financial gifts. It is that generosity that allows us to reach out to neighbor and friend, and to open the doors of our church to all who are longing for a spiritual home. Through our generosity we do the work our Loving God has given us: worshipping the Lord with music, reflection, and prayer; serving our neighbors near and far; growing in knowledge and love of God; and becoming a community of hope and love. During this Epiphany season, as we remember the abundant gifts lavished on Our Lord Jesus by the Wise Men, let us reflect on our own offerings. Our gifts are not for ourselves, or even for our church alone. Our annual commitment is also an expression of the love and gratitude we feel for God in Jesus Christ. It is a thanksgiving for the many blessings of this life.

I cannot wait to see where our generosity and God's love will take this beautiful church. I am holding our parish, and all of you, in my most cherished prayers. It is my sincere hope that the good work we have begun together will continue into a more extraordinary future than any of us can imagine.

God bless you and God bless our beloved All Saints'.

Love,  
Mother Yejide

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)