



*The Beauty
of Holiness*

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Saint Philip's
IN THE HILLS

gathered in love. transformed by grace. sent to serve.

FROM THE RECTOR

DEAR BELOVED IN CHRIST,

This summer, we suffered a tragic death in Karrie's family. I preached and officiated the funeral as we struggled to come to terms with a loss that was too sudden and too soon.

Our older son read Psalm 23 in the traditional language: "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil." It's one of the most beloved psalms, I think, because it acknowledges the reality of life's sorrows while giving voice to our hope.

Our younger son carried the cross at the funeral, and also read at graveside: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

We sang Amazing Grace as we prepared to lower the casket into the grave. Both boys were able to sing it because they've learned to sing and play piano at Saint Philip's.

The congregation gathered was Methodist, Southern Baptist, Episcopal, and Roman Catholic. In the midst of grief, we didn't struggle for words to give shape to our hurt and our hope—they were words we already knew from Scripture and hymns.

This year's theme for our stewardship campaign is "the beauty of holiness." I saw it there at that funeral. As I looked around, I saw not only grieving parents. I also saw a man battling cancer. I saw widows, folks who had dropped out of high school to fight in wars, people with PhDs, metal workers and doctors, farmers and pharmacists, the unemployed, and the long-retired.

From ages 1 to nearly 100, we spoke of Amazing Grace, how God so loved the world, and that God is with us in that valley of the shadow of death. My boys could pray, sing, serve, and mourn among others because of



life here at Saint Philip's. The beauty of holiness enveloped that Mississippi graveyard. Despite differences, we shared one voice, one hope, one faith.

That is what our giving supports—passing on the light of faith so that no child here, no one of any age, grieves without the words of faith, the hope of new life, and a sure confidence in the love of Christ.

Karrie and I will give \$17,000.00 in 2024 to life at Saint Philip's. It's a sacrificial amount. But it's worth it to us. Hearing our kids sing Amazing Grace at the grave of a loved one is priceless. Watching them worship, seeing them learn that God so loves the world, here in the beauty of holiness, is worth it to us.

I hope it is worth it to you, too.

Yours in Christ,

FR ROBERT HENDRICKSON

The beauty of holiness so embedded in the liturgies, music, and buildings that comprise Saint Philip's in the Hills require near-constant attention and care.

We need your support more than ever this year.

For more information, please see the Treasurer's Report on Page 7, and the Stewardship Chair's report on the back page.



WHY WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

THE POST-COVID CHURCH IS STILL EMERGING, yet we already see some of its lasting and positive effects on worship and community within the historic walls of Saint Philip's in the Hills.

Online worship, begun as a necessity in pandemic time, remains a strong and viable means of worshipping “within” the walls of this church and among the people gathered in the beauty of its holiness.

We scrambled with other churches to acquire technology and the skills to go with it as we dared enter the world of Zoom and its ability to keep us connected. Today, some groups continue as Zoom communities.

After months of confinement, we are even more hungry for friendships forged in a Christian context. New people have arrived. Young families with children. Retirees. People seeking a place to belong. New hopes and dreams to build upon the bedrock of values and aspirations imagined at the founding of Saint Philip's. We are a new Saint Philip's and we are the same Saint Philip's that sprang up in open fields nearly a century ago—because someone dared respond to God's call for something new in this place.

In this moment, as we are writing the next chapter of the Saint Philip's story, won't you respond—however it is you can—and contribute to the 2024 pledge campaign.



TOP LEFT, *clockwise*: Peg Anderson receives recognition award from Sr Warden, John Bremond; Fr Peter Helman baptizes an infant; Saint Philip's food pantry in action; Christmas Eve pageant; Youth Group members on an outing.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 9:00AM & 11:15AM
**2024 Stewardship Campaign begins
First Sunday Music**

Nach dir, Herr, verlanget mich, BWV 150, J. S. Bach
One of Bach's earliest cantatas based on several penitential verses from Psalm 25 for choir, soloists, and chamber ensemble.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 8:30AM - 3:00PM
Second Annual Animal Faire

The day will begin with a Blessing of the Animals service inside the church and then offer exhibits, demonstrations, rescue groups, food trucks, and more. Perfect for animal lovers of all ages.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, ALL SOULS' DAY, 7:00PM
All Souls' Day

Saint Philip's will observe its annual All Souls' requiem mass at 7:00PM on Thursday, November 2. The choirs will sing the *Requiem* by Maurice Duruflé.



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 9:00AM & 11:15AM
All Saints' Sunday and Ingathering Sunday

The stewardship campaign comes to a formal end.

First Sunday Music:

Saint Philip's Missa Brevis, Ēriks Ešenvalds
This mass premiered on May 7, 2023, and the choirs will reprise it with instrumentalists.



Dr Justin Appel and Ēriks Ešenvalds



TOP LEFT, clockwise:
Saint Philip's members;
Children celebrating Palm Sunday;
Parents' Formation Group members;
Food Pantry in action.



FROM THE TREASURER

DEAR SAINT PHILIP'S COMMUNITY,

In my Treasurer's report for the 2023 annual meeting, I included the following paragraph:

As you can see, the challenges continue. With the continuing decline in the number of pledges and the declining reserves, we must do better at managing our resources and stay within budget. We also must grow our invested funds and endowments.

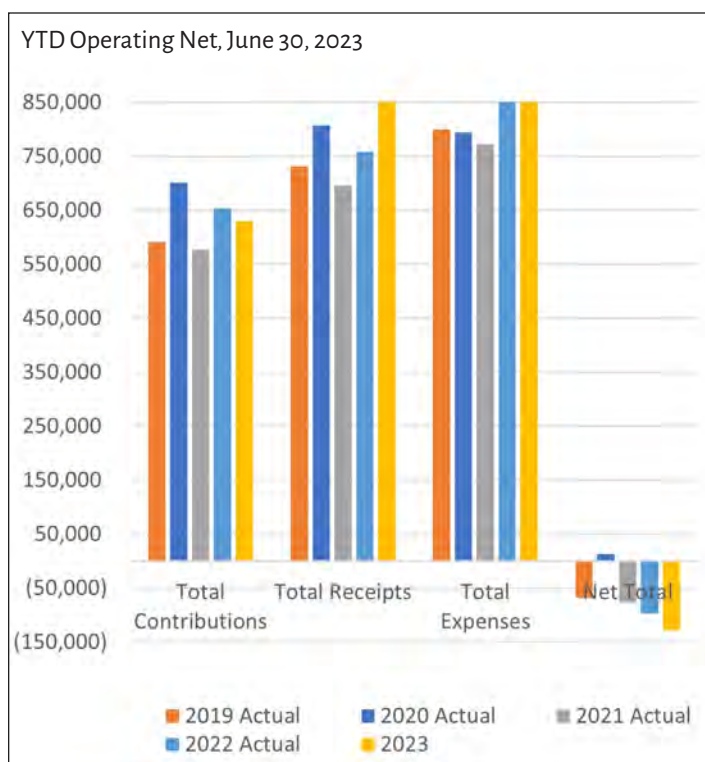
We developed a much more detailed budget for 2023 and hoped to stay within it. Unfortunately, some unexpected expenses and the high inflation rate upset those plans. The chart below shows a loss of almost \$150,000 for the first half of 2023. Because of this deficit we faced a substantial loss for the entire year.

To address this issue, a number of parishioners were contacted in July and asked to increase their support. They rallied and their generosity will help minimize the deficit for this year. Careful expense management for the remainder of 2023, coupled with additional gifts, should allow us to close 2023 with only a moderate loss—if not a balanced budget.

Saint Philip's has cause for optimism. The growth in our Children, Youth, and Families Ministry, the baptisms and confirmations of many children and adults, weddings, Bible studies, and new outreach ministries are all signs of life here—signs that would be welcome in any parish. Our choirs are incredible and the music we offer attracts many new parishioners and gives youth a way to be formed in worship and ministry.

We've worked hard to constrain costs over recent years—and our average pledge has increased substantially. But we have not been generating enough annual unrestricted income from pledges, plate, and rentals to support the current programmatic and pastoral life.

Five-Year Comparison (2019-2023)



Our priority is to do all we can to ensure that the favorable trends continue. To do that, we must balance the budget for 2024—and that means we must increase our total income by at least 20% compared to what we planned for 2023.

I hope and pray that you will consider what Saint Philip's means to you and your family and do what you can to help continue the support of the multiple ministries provided to the parish and the community.

Please pray for the wardens, vestry and staff as they develop plans to ensure the continued life of our wonderful parish.

HERB BURTON

Treasurer

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP CHAIR

Wonderful photographs in this brochure show our parishioners in so many different church activities that illustrate the beauty of holiness: in worship, in volunteer service, at church activities—praying, singing, laughing, working. The photos tell a story of who we are. Saint Philip's is a beautiful and holy place.

As Stewardship Chair, I've spent many hours in the past months reviewing Breeze, the parish's online database, to understand who Saint Philip's parishioners are by how we give. Giving is one way to record the history and well-being of our church. On July 1, 2023, the Breeze data was this: There are 1,123 parishioners (children included) who form 668 households.

For 2023, Saint Philip's has recorded pledges from 280 households; the average pledge was \$3,571.00. An additional 117 households have made regular donations to the operational budget. These pledges and gifts sustain the life and service of the church—the beauty of holiness and community.

The enclosed pledge form describes the mechanics of how to give. Your pledge gives us the best information to form an already very carefully honed annual budget. Ingathering Sunday on November 5 marks the end of the formal stewardship campaign. I urge you to join the community of saints who give their time, talent and treasure to Saint Philip's in so many ways. We are one community, and we all benefit from each other's gifts. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge or increasing your level of giving in the 2024 campaign to faithfully support the bright and beautiful year ahead.

Thank you!
BONNIE WINN



“We do not know God from His essence. We know him rather from the grandeur of creation and from the providential care for all creatures. For through these, as though they were mirrors, we may attain insight into his infinite goodness, wisdom and power.”

—ST MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR

Saint Philip's
IN THE HILLS

gathered in love. transformed by grace. sent to serve.