



10035 103 Street NW  
Edmonton AB T5J 0X5  
780-428-6323  
[Admin@allsaintscathedral.ca](mailto:Admin@allsaintscathedral.ca)  
[www.allsaintscathedral.ca](http://www.allsaintscathedral.ca)

September 30, 2022

*As we begin our stewardship campaign for 2023, I am deeply grateful to David Barnum for writing to you on behalf of the stewardship committee. David is currently serving as the people's warden of All Saints' Cathedral, and I am continually impressed by his deep care for this community and his understanding of how the work that we are currently about will impact the faith development of future generations. In this letter David shares his own journey with stewardship, pledge forms and learning to see the promises of God in a life of generosity and so I invite you to read this letter and to join us in considering how God is calling us all to be good stewards of the life of the Cathedral, both for this time and for the years ahead.*

*In Christ,*

*The Very Reverend Alexandra Meek*

---

Dear Fellow Parishioner,

Thank you for your continued support of All Saints' Cathedral in many and untold ways through the time of COVID-19.

The past few years have been a time of disorientation as we have been cut away from those practices and conversations which help us become more aware of the God who created and loves us. Thankfully, we now have a time and opportunity when we might again experience together moments of deeper spirituality and meaning, not just for ourselves but more importantly for those beyond us. This can be the time when our cathedral community rejuvenates itself and returns to being the active faith community in downtown Edmonton that we have been and continue to be called to be.

The annual pledges of our community, and other regular offerings, played a very critical role in sustaining the work of All Saints' during Covid 19. These funds gave not only financial support but the most important ingredient—hope. Please find enclosed this year's pledge form, which will allow for the planning of the continued work of our church in 2023.

I've always found it difficult to complete my own personal pledge form, stumbling over entering the financial numbers, and yet I remember the words of Henri Nouwen, "The importance of money is so tied up with relationships." So true! Our relationships, with others and with organizations such as the

church, can both inspire and educate or block us from doing what is right. At their best, though, they are what will help lead us to the way to salvation.

My wife, Pat, and I had little money throughout most of our married life. It was something we accepted right from the start, but we knew that if we adjusted, modified and changed for what we desired, we usually could find a good outcome. Although scarcity did at times make its way into our mindset, it wasn't allowed to stay there. Pat was much quicker in coming to grips with generosity than I was. However gradually, as events came upon us, we really had the chance to learn who was the one who provided ultimate security within our lives. About a decade ago, we decided to significantly increase our givings to All Saints'. As we went through, year after year, we became less fearful and more confident that we were on the right path. That's the path I am hoping to help you consider undertaking.

As I complete my pledge form, each year I begin by asking myself the question: "How truly generous am I?" When we think about generosity, it isn't just about money. Generosity is about so many aspects of our lives. Just think about what Jesus told us in the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) about the importance of generosity, and this is just one story among many which can be change agents within our lives. And so, as I consider my own life, if I am less than ok with the answer to my question on generosity, I also ask myself, "What am I planning to do about this?" and "Is God in this picture, and if not why not?"

Several weeks ago, I was at a nearby recreation centre and I became aware of a person at a rowing machine. When she first pulled at the oars, I could see she encountered physical resistance but as she repeated, it became easier for her. I remembered my experience years ago with rowboats at a family cottage on the Bruce Peninsula and how I had to learn how to row. Generosity, I think has similarities. It is always hard when it has been a while, but, once engaged the resistance fades, and then the joy and meaning comes forth. This also has me consider another gospel account and I wonder how difficult it must have been for the disciples to row their boat to shore after it was filled with fish (Luke 5). When you think about it, aren't the actions of generosity key factors in opening God's abundance to our neighbour?

My hope is that if you have never completed a pledge, you take the time to fill in the form this year and experience the learning which can be a part of the process. Or, and if you are a pledger like me, consider a small or large increase as I will do. Lastly, if you can, please return your form to the church prior to All Saints' Day, Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

With great blessing and thanks,



David Barnum for All Saints' Stewardship