

*Growing Connections*



*Rooted in Faith*

*What does he plant who plants a tree?*

*A scion full of potency,*

*He plants his faith, a prophecy*

*Of bloom, and fruitfulness to be;*

*He plants a shade where robins sing,*

*Where orioles their nestlings swing;*

*A burning bush—a miracle!*

*Who plants a tree—he doeth well!*

—Author Unknown



Dear Friends,

God's creation is abundant with beauty, life, and inspiration. The tree provides a rich metaphor for our community of faith. As a church we each are organically and dynamically linked together, just as all the pieces of a tree—roots, trunk, branches, leaves, and fruit—are unified as one.

In our stewardship tree, the roots of our belief reach into God's faithful love, providing the sturdy foundation for us to grow. The trunk nurtures and feeds our connection with the Holy Spirit's life-giving presence. The branches—the boundless ministries at All Saints'—spread the good news, grace, and compassion of Jesus out into the world. Finally, the leaves and fruit—each of us offering our work, wisdom, and wealth—are nourished by our connections to each other and our faith in God, helping to feed the community around us.

Sometimes we live in the shelter of our tree, which provides shade, safe haven, and sacred healing. Sometimes we feast on the fresh fruit, quenching our deep hunger and thirst. Sometimes we are part of the strong branches or vibrant leaves, sharing in service, sacraments, and spiritual formation. This imagery of a beautiful tree with deep roots, strong branches, and abundant vibrant leaves captures the essence of our growing life at All Saints'.

Jesus said, "I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last . . . I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another." As disciples of Jesus, and stewards of All Saints', we are charged to tend the soil and bear lasting fruit. We are invited to prayerfully consider how

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we can give of ourselves through our work, wisdom, and wealth to enrich the soil of our beloved tree.

This year, you may either complete the enclosed pledge card and return it to the church, or you can find a link to an online pledge form at [www.allsaintsmd.org](http://www.allsaintsmd.org). After you pledge, come to church and find our campaign tree. Add your handprint as “leaves” on our tree. Watch each week as our branches fill with our growing connections: as we see our rooted faith thrive.

May God’s love nourish and support you,

The Rev. Jessica Holthus  
*Associate Rector, All Saints’ Church*

Rachel Query and Jeanette O’Malley  
*Stewardship Team Co-Chairs*

Joanna Gibb, Scarlett Gibb, and Clarence Harper  
*Stewardship Teammates*

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