

Generosity: Trusting in God's abundance and sharing what God has entrusted to us

Instead of confining talk of generosity to a fall pledge campaign, we share stories of God's generosity all year long. From the pulpit, in our weekly newsletter, over coffee and meals, telling these stories helps us to see the abundance God has given us, and draws out our generosity in grateful response. We recognize that we have much to share with others, and when needs arise in our community or among our neighbors, gifts appear, whether they are backpacks filled with school supplies for neighborhood children or industrial air purifiers that enable us to worship safely during COVID. We welcome all gifts, no matter the size, and highly value the gifts of time and talent that are freely given, again and again. Combined, all of these abundant gifts have enabled us to engage in ministries large and small and operate free of debt. And we do have a fall pledge campaign! Led by committed lay leaders in support of a carefully drafted ministry budget, our pledge campaigns have been perennially successful and have grown even during the pandemic.

Recognizing God's abundant generosity to us, we prayerfully seek ways to grow our capacity for giving. In 2017, we began a congregation-wide discernment process, asking "How do we welcome the stranger in our midst?" We saw our ancient kitchen, with its dangerous stove, dysfunctional dishwasher, chipped linoleum, and broken cabinets. We listened to our decrepit and unreliable lift, which sounded like a lawn mower, causing embarrassment to anyone who needed to ride it up to the sanctuary during a worship service. We felt the uncomfortable chairs in our parish hall and imagined what we could do with a more hospitable space.



Out with the tired old kitchen...

After months of prayerful community-wide discernment, we launched a million-dollar capital campaign in 2018. Through generous and sacrificial giving, fundraising events, and wise stewardship of the finances, we completed our new kitchen, parish hall and art gallery, lift, and accessible bathroom in 2019. Through the great generosity of this community in response to God's abundance, we are debt-free once again.



... and in with the new, prepping abundant COVID-safe soup-to-go for Ash Wednesday 2021

Our Project Home ministry was the first to use the new kitchen and parish hall. We had only a few months to enjoy the newly remodeled space and begin sharing it with our neighbors when the pandemic brought our plans to a pause. As we gradually transition toward post-pandemic life, we are excited to fully use this space in our ministries, gather for fellowship, and share this gift with our neighbors.