



2023

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

St. Stephen and the Incarnation
Episcopal Church

Stewardship from Ceicily Young:

“My name is Cecily Young and I’ve been attending St Stephen’s for a little less than a year. I think the church has so many incredible ministries, but what I feel qualified to talk about is how wonderful it was for me to google “Episcopal church near me” and show up to this church that was so inviting and kind to me. From the very beginning I have felt welcomed, included, and loved. I choose to give to the church because it feels important to keep the lights on and the building functioning so that it can be the same welcoming, inclusive home to others in the community. I would encourage others to pledge whatever you can financially to support the ongoing ministries provided for both our church family and the community around us.”

Statement from Ryan Knight:

“I arrived in DC after completing my Peace Corps Service in Ukraine and set about finding a Presbyterian church. The house I lived in was one block away on Brown Street. So I decided to visit Saint Stephen and the Incarnation. Well, I decided- I could be a Presbyterian that happened to go to an Episcopal church

I fell in love with this church. With the beautiful stained glass windows, with symbolism of communion taken in a circle, with the beautiful mix of service and sacred that exists at this church.

You all have become a family for me here in DC. I want to see this community continue for many years and that I want more people to share and experience the good that we have here.

We commemorated the life of Bill Makay. In 2020, I sat down with Bill for hours, recording the stories of Saint Stephen and the Incarnation and the story of dozens of others who once called this church their church home. We stand on the shoulders of giants in this congregation. We are a family that extends across generations.

I have never been a part of a community like Saint Stephen and the Incarnation. It’s the first church that has challenged me to love more. I invest in Saint Stephen and the Incarnation

because of the way this community invests in me and in our community. I invest because I want this church to continue to inspire people not only from what it has done in the past, but what it's doing in the future.

I hope you will join me in continuing to support Saint Stephen and the Incarnation.”

Statement from Saunya Connelly:

“I have been asked by the stewardship committee to say a few words about why I come to St. Stephen's and why I give.

I began coming to St. Stephen's because I was looking for a sense of community. I live in a large building and a large city and wanted people of similar faith and beliefs with whom to worship. Even though I had lived in Mount Pleasant many years ago and for several years after returning, I wasn't aware of all the church has done and continues to do in and for the community until I started worshiping here.

I give to St. Stephen's because now more than ever the need for community exists and I don't want to consider a world where I'm not able to worship here. I want the church to be able to have the resources to do the crucial work that it does supporting its members and the community.”

Statement from Cody Bock:

“My name is Cody Bock, and I've attended St Stephens and the Incarnation since August 2022, when I first moved to DC. I was drawn to this church by the openness of the congregation, the liturgy, and the proximity to my house. I loved the idea of living within my church community, and even now, I am always excited to see you all at Malcolm X park or Giant.

I began donating to SSI after Elizabeth Finley lit a fire under me... To explain: I had the intention of donating for MONTHS before I finally scheduled my automatic payments. It was when I joined the buildings and grounds committee and heard Elizabeth's clear explanations of the church's facility-related needs that I understood the importance of this building. Both our church community and the work of the many non-profits in this building rely on these walls, windows, and HVAC system.

I have always tried to view love as an action— something both felt and realized through the way I use my time, words, and even money. I give to St Stephens out of a love for these walls and the HVAC and everything they enable; I give to support the work done here, to invest in our church community, and to help make sure we can continue to welcome people, new and old, in this part of the city. Please join me if you feel so led.”