

## Rector's Annual Report 2014

2014 was a challenging year, but one that showed God's hand clearly working at All Saints. The first few months brought some of the worst winter weather in years with bitter cold and snow on every Sunday for over three months! (Many Sundays we had 5-6 inches falling through our service times.) We continued to have services each week with those who were able to get here. Despite these lower attended months overall in 2014 both the 8:30 and 10:30 services increased in attendance by one. It may not seem like much but the average church in the US declined in attendance last year, so we are growing!

During Lent we gathered to learn more about where Jesus walked and talked through *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus* by Adam Hamilton. After our soup suppers we would watch videos of the Holy Land and read bible passages that talked about the places where Jesus ministered.

Beginning in late spring through the fall we participated in the Planting for Tomorrow Capital Campaign to benefit the new Diocesan Camp and Retreat Center and to gather money for Capital Projects around All Saints. We did not bring in as many large pledges as we had hoped, but many people pledged generously. Over the next five years we will continue to benefit from this ongoing campaign and work to improve the property of All Saints.

At about the same time after months of consideration, Vestry gave the approval to do a trial run as a mobile food pantry site through the Cleveland Food Bank. We agreed for three months to have 10,000 - 12,000 pounds of food, mostly fresh fruits and vegetables, dropped off at All Saints. We would work for two hours to distribute it to those who could use it. We quickly discovered that many of our neighbors were in need and that a number of parishioners also would be helped by this resource. One of the main concerns our parish had was if we would have enough volunteers to sustain this program. What we have seen is that we often have an abundance of volunteers that have run the entire age spectrum from 6-80+. God has truly been moving through this new ministry of All Saints.

Starting in mid-July All Saints has seen an increase in interest from the community. On all but one Sunday since then we have had at least one visitor each Sunday! Visitors have been coming to both Sunday morning services as well as our special evening services-Blessing of Animals at Stearns Farm, Taize, and When Christmas Hurts.

Another way God has been moving at All Saints this year has been through receiving Grants. As a result of being able to have handicap accessible bathrooms through a Church Home Grant last year, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of people with mobility challenges. Just before Easter we ran out of room for walkers and wheelchairs and removed a pew to accommodate everyone. Again in the fall we found ourselves out of space for everyone and so we removed a second pew. One of our new members has commented that we are one of the only churches in Parma that provides the level of accessibility that is needed for her family to attend church. Continuing in that effort we received a second Church Home Grant to fund our senior dinners and provide new handicap push button doors. We ordered them this fall and are waiting for the weather to break to have them installed.

We also applied for and received another grant for our youth group to return to West Virginia on a mission trip.

Finances continue to improve and were helped this year through regular ongoing building use. Vickie and I are continuing to try to increase the number of groups using our building to help offset our budget deficit and to improve our visibility in our community.

Our pastoral services have continued at about the same numbers as previous years- 5 baptisms, 5 funerals, and 2 weddings.

Overall this year we have seen God moving in our midst in many ways. We have upcoming challenges with regard to our facilities, but also increasing opportunity as we reach more and more people in Parma with God's love.

Pastor Heather Hill