

Why We Give: Building Community

By Ann Ramsey-Moor, St. John's Parishioner



Beyond the lovely edifice of St. John's Church is something even more integral to what we are: the community of people who gather here.

Whether through informal encounters like Third Sunday Suppers and conversations over coffee between services, or through more formal ministries and programs, joining with members of our parish family makes a difference to our lives. As we gather, we enlarge our circle of friends. We go on journeys of discovery. We feel less isolated. We care for one another. We share a tear, or a laugh.

And, in the process, we become part of something bigger than ourselves.

In the New Testament, Christians are likened to "living stones" to be "built into a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5, NRSV). When we come together for Sunday worship, or for various activities or projects, we are constructing that spiritual house.

In 2022, I enrolled with fellow St. John's parishioners in the "Sacred Ground" program to explore American history from the standpoint of the dispossessed. Few of us knew one another at the outset. But as we struggled with questions and issues the curriculum raised, we got to know one another in a remarkably personal way—despite being on Zoom. When the course was over, we encountered one another at church as old friends, and as part of the fabric of a larger community.

Your pledge supports the fellowship that is, to me, one of the most rewarding features of life at St. John's.