

# Stewardship Minute Testimonial

2022 Every Member Pledge Campaign  
Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill



## Follow the Saints

by Dodd Sims, M.D.

On All Saints Sunday, what better topic to meditate on than the saints of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. Yes, there are saints among us. I have known some of them. They led me to this place.

Let me explain why we came to Immanuel, why we stayed, and why each year we prayerfully make a pledge of financial support to honor these saints and to return to God a small portion of the blessings God has bestowed on us.

Ten years ago, Phyllis and I were looking for a new church. We visited more than a few: several denominations, a variety of worship styles, some more welcoming than others. Finally, we showed up at Immanuel.

I first heard about Immanuel from patients who were long-standing parishioners. They seemed to be especially kind people. There were the three Bills: Bill Dols, Bill Kilpatrick and especially Bill Frye. And then there was the one and only Andy Biache.

They were good people, serious but warm people who had raised their families, built community, and weathered the ups and downs of lives well lived. I did not know at the time that they were actual saints.

So that is how we got here for the first time. But why did we stay and why do we pledge?

A very important reason is the community. It is such a blessing to live and work and worship, all in the same community. There are the parishioners who I see in my practice. There are the dinners with friends from church and the chance encounters with fellow parishioners on the street or in a store. There is the pumpkin patch that supports the Neighborhood Health clinic. It is there that I have been graced with the privilege to share the love of God and indeed the love of this parish with the most vulnerable members of our larger community.

Immanuel is a busy place. And that is for me a very special blessing. It keeps Phyllis busy. And for all of you who know and love Phyllis as I do, you understand how important it is to keep her busy. In the Martha versus Mary divide, she is all Martha. She is Martha on stilts. When she is busy, she is at her best. And what's more, when she is busy, I can rest.

But at the end of the day, it was for the saints among you that we came and stayed; that is why we got actively involved and why we pledge. Though often we do not recognize them until they are gone, there are plenty of saints among us. They are sitting in front of you and behind you and even next to you.

So, get to know the saints. They are leading us somewhere. Get in line and follow them. They are leading us as we build the Kingdom of God, one pumpkin at a time.

*Delivered on All Saints Sunday, November 7, 2021*