

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

Stewardship 2022



Abundant
Blessings

Abundant
Gratitude

Abundant
Giving

All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that God has given you.

Deuteronomy 16:17

Pastor Gray's Message

Dear Friends,

In Ephesians 3:20-21, the Apostle Paul writes, "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations."

This scripture passage was included at my installation in 2009 here. It was central to our Middle School trip in July 2021. I am so grateful for the support you have given me and my family, for your past support for Bradley Hills, and look forward to the next exciting year together.

As we have dealt with the life and church-changing impacts of Covid, together, by God's grace, we have accomplished more than I could have asked or imagined. Worship kept going. Virtual music was made. Youth learned and were confirmed. Deacons connected people. You supported each other. We shared Christ's peace virtually. BHPC is a place that can be meaningful for many generations. We made significant missional progress this past year dealing with multiple crises in our community and world. Through all of that, you stayed together as a congregation.

Your financial support for Bradley Hills has allowed this community to weather a storm like no other. Now, as we return to in-person worship, we do so from a position of strength as a church. We give God the glory for the power to continue our ministry together. And to weather whatever storms come our way in the future.

Now we ask for the Spirit to guide us to do more than we could ask or imagine. To dream big as we approach our next year. During 2022, we will begin our next strategic plan for BHPC. This new strategic plan will build on our racial justice work.

To make this work impactful, we need to support it financially. In order for us to emerge from Covid and deal with variants in a stable place, we must support BHPC financially. In order to be prepared for "hybrid church," as we have an increasing number of members who live in other states, or who don't feel comfortable yet coming to 6601 in person, we need to upgrade our website, sanctuary sound and video systems, and technology capabilities for programs like adult ed. To change lives through impactful mission partnerships, we need to support BHPC. We have some significant personnel changes coming in our communications, associate pastor and caring/pastoral care teams. For our caring, pastoral and communications ministries to remain strong, we need to invest in our church.

My family feels so strongly about Bradley Hills that we are increasing our pledge to the church for 2022. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining us.

We can imagine what Bradley Hills can become. I believe we have an opportunity to be a congregation that changes lives in profound ways and be a place where our lives are changed in the process.

I hope you will consider joining me in making a pledge on Dedication Sunday, November 7, to invest in what this congregation is and can become. See you online or in person at church.



In Christ's love,

David

Goals for 2022

1. *Keeping our ministries of worship, education, and caring strong as we move through Covid.*

For two years PPP grants have helped to bridge the revenue shortfalls from other building users, including the nursery school. But that program is ending, and we need to return to funding our essential ongoing ministries from our own resources. The support for essential ministries includes staff salaries and our programs of worship, music, education, and pastoral care, as well as care and stewardship of our wonderful building and grounds. One exciting new initiative is a plan to obtain professional assistance in developing a landscaping master plan for the grounds, with an eye towards sustainability and environmental stewardship as well as beauty. Covid has delayed many funerals and has created significant emotional and spiritual challenges for many in our congregation. Keeping our pastoral care ministries strong into 2022 will remain important.

2. *Investing in life-changing missional partnerships to change lives as Christ calls us.*

In 2022, BHPC will develop and approve a new strategic plan. Stewardship dollars will make life-changing partnerships possible to help those in need and will allow us as a church to dream big as part of our new strategic plan. For example, one outcome of our Racial Justice initiative is the decision to support the development of strong, diverse leadership in the PCUSA. To that end, BHPC is developing partnerships to support diverse clergy through Union Presbyterian Seminary and Howard University Seminary.



3. *Enhancing our technology to prepare our ministries for the challenges and opportunities we face.*

During the pandemic our staff and congregation had a crash course in producing and participating in remote worship through Livestream and conducting meetings through Zoom. Even as we resume in-person worship and meetings, we will continue to rely on technology to allow members who are unable or uncomfortable to attend in-person to participate remotely. "Hybrid events" that combine in-person and remote participation may become commonplace. To make that possible, we need to invest in video conferencing technology for the lounge and library. The website will become increasingly important as a means to watch worship and of sharing information with members and newcomers alike. To continue doing so, website enhancements are needed. Technology upgrades to our Sunday sound and video equipment in the sanctuary will enhance the experience for the large numbers of worshipers participating remotely.



Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:10

Worship

What happens in and through Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church? We worship God. That takes place in different ways.

Through Our Spiritual Leaders and Teachers—When we hold ourselves open to God's word, we are blessed with leaders who are clearly blessed by God. They teach us, not as rule setters, but as friends sharing our path. When we hear their words, and accept them as the guidance they are, we worship.

Through Our Worship Leaders and Supporters—Our Greeting and Usher Teams are probably the first church members we meet when we gather. The church setting is beautifully enhanced every Service by our Chancel Guild and Flower Guild. When called upon, our Communion Team organizes the "Sacrament of the Lord's Supper" for all. Technical expertise of our Sound and Video Ministry enables us to share our services in real-time, online, keeping congregation members who are far away, "in our midst." When we are free to experience our time in the sanctuary focusing fully on God, we worship.



Through The Chancel Players—In many of our worship services, we are blessed by a group of talented friends who share those talents by helping us to experience God's messages in new and different ways. We are reminded that we are not here solely to listen, but to speak of our convictions. When all the talented members of our congregation share their wonderful abilities with us, we are uplifted, and we worship.

Our Music Ministries – What other congregation is as blessed as we are with the gifts of those who offer their musical talents to us all? The leadership of those who guide our musicians (all singers are musicians) has expanded the array of opportunities we have to hear God speak in that incomparable way. When we hear the organ, the voices, the heavenly notes, we are inspired, and we worship.



In Our Environment – We are blessed with one of the most beautiful sanctuaries imaginable. Have you ever entered the sanctuary alone ... stood there silently ... watching the beams of sun flow through the stained glass, lighting up the very air you breath? In such moments, in gratitude, we worship.



In whatever way you are moved by our blessings at Bradley Hills, we come together in God's presence ... and we worship.

So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

Galatians 6:10

Mission Outreach

Bradley Hills is a loving and caring congregation, actively engaged in its community and beyond. Our mission program supports Christian compassion, peace, and justice through a combination of financial support, hands-on service, and peace and social justice advocacy, in partnership with local, national, and global organizations. The program focuses on pathways out of poverty, racial justice, health care, food and nutrition, education, earth care, disaster relief, interfaith refugee support, and support for youth and young adult mission programs.

Our mission outreach has not only continued but expanded during the Covid-19 pandemic. To better educate our congregation about mission-related issues, Zoom classes have been held on environmental justice, gun violence, the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, LGBTQ recognition within BHPC and the PCUSA, segregation and racial justice, and mental health. The needs in our community and beyond are great, and much remains to be done. Your time, talent and treasure are needed to help meet those needs.



In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35

Building Users - How our church space is used:

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Bethesda Cares Board Meeting

Bethesda Help

Bethesda Jewish Congregation

Boy Scouts of America

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School

Community Groups - Gardening, HOAs

Friends Club

Friends Club Caregivers Support Group

Girl Scouts Nation's Capital

JSSA Hospice Memorial Service

Maqaame Ibrahim Islamic Center

Music Groups

NoteAbles Rehearsals and Concerts

Opportunities Inc.

Parenting Without Partners

Pastoral Counseling

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

Psalm 24:1-2

How much do people at Bradley Hills give?

The chart below shows that we received 199 pledges from individuals and families for a total of \$998,256 for 2021.

- ◆ 148 pledges (74% of total pledges) contribute 31% of the total pledge dollars
- ◆ 43 pledges (22% of total pledges) contribute 36% of the total pledge dollars
- ◆ 8 pledges (4% of total pledges) contribute 33% of the total pledge dollars

Here is a summary of pledges received last year:

Range of Pledge	Number of Pledges in Range	% of Total Pledges	Dollars for this range	% of Total Pledge Dollars
0 to 999	31	15.6%	14,655	1.5%
1,000 to 2,499	61	30.7%	94,525	9.5%
2,500 to 4,999	56	28.1%	202,910	20.3%
5,000 to 9,999	31	15.6%	213,716	21.4%
10,000 to 19,999	12	6.0%	142,900	14.3%
20,000 up	8	4.0%	329,550	33.0%
Total	199		998,256	

The church encourages every member or household to make a financial commitment for 2022.

If you give but have not pledged to the church, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge this year, providing even more reliable support of the church and its ministries.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:16

Ways to Give

We hope that each of you recognize how God continues to shower his blessings on us all – individually and as a church family - and in gratitude for those blessings, give abundantly to support God's work at BHPC.

We want to ensure that everyone is aware of the many methods of giving that are available.

Check You can mail a check to the church, or you can set up automated bill payment through your bank. Please indicate any special designation in the memo field.

Online: Give immediately using your **bank account** for an ACH bank transaction or use your **credit/debit card**. All methods of online giving will direct you to Realm where you can securely make your gift. All methods of online giving incur a processing expense for the church. The donor is offered the opportunity to contribute towards this expense at the time of the online gift.

There are three methods of online giving:

- The "[Give Now](#)" Button;
- [Log into Realm](#) via the App or from your computer and choose the "Giving" option.
- **Text** "BHPC" space dollar amount (ex. "BHPC 150" for a \$150 gift) to 73256 and follow the link.

Gifts of Securities (stocks, bonds, etc.): Gift appreciated securities to Bradley Hills' brokerage account.

To learn more about these options, please see our website under the SERVE tab and then "[Ways for You to Give](#)"

Thank you for supporting our mission to reflect God's gracious love and abundant blessings.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21

Please visit BradleyHillsChurch.org

to see and print:

[2022 Commitment Card](#)

[Guidance for Giving at Bradley Hills](#)

[Ways to Give to Bradley Hills](#)



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