



## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6750 Fayette Street, Haymarket, VA 20169

Phone: 703-753-25443

Email: [stpaulsepiscopalhaymarket@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsepiscopalhaymarket@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stpaulsepiscopalhaymarket.org](http://www.stpaulsepiscopalhaymarket.org)

Dear St. Paul's,

November 2020

My prayers in this challenging time are for your health and safety. 2020 has been a unique year of ministry, and we are **"One Together"** at **St. Paul's** in this transformational time. Your faithful financial support during this extraordinary year has sustained and strengthened our **ONE** life **TOGETHER**. We have seen surprising changes to our daily lives following the need to temporarily close our church, the directive to stay at home, and the regathering guidelines. We have improvised and adapted with online services, outdoor services, and now livestreaming indoor services. We have had to postpone baptisms, weddings, funerals, and cancel numerous events. We have accomplished new efforts through the Wishing Well Program, delivering flowerpots to church members and an at home program for Church School, and producing a Virtual Lessons & Carols in December. Through prudent endurance, we have made practical decisions and safely moved with confidence into the new.

Our new Stewardship theme **"One Together,"** describes how we can love and live in the days ahead. **"One Together"** is centered on the opening liturgy of Baptism:

*"There is one Body and one Spirit; There is one hope in God's call to us;*

*One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; One God and Father of all."*

These are words of relationship that call us into action to continue our journey of becoming one - one in Christ, one with all people, and one with God's earth. This call moves us more deeply into being generous stewards of our *Time & Talent & Treasure*.

At **St. Paul's**, some activities have continued in new ways, some have paused, and all will thrive again! It is uplifting to hear the ways our members have remained connected with each other, their family, and friends. We live as **"One Together"** through our Baptism, and our one faith unites us even when we are not together physically. We have missed worship in our church itself. **We are the one body, the feet and the hands of Jesus, the Church. As the Church, we actively follow God's call in new ways online and outside, and we begin to return indoors to more familiar ways.**

**St. Paul's** is supported by members like you who declare your faithful commitment to our church community through commitments of *Time & Talent & Treasure*. Please submit your pledge of *Treasure* for our financial support in **2021**, and your pledge of *Time & Talent* for our ministries in **2021**. I will invite you, as you are comfortable, to a gradual return of ministries in **2021**. Your commitments always make a difference.

Join me in being **"One Together"** at **St. Paul's** through your faithful commitments of *Time & Talent & Treasure* in **2021**. Your generosity is essential to our faith community. God gives us all we need. It is our joy to give back. Thank you for the prayerful reflection you give this matter and the commitments you will make: **"One Together!"**

Prayerfully yours,

The Rev. Sean K. Rousseau +  
Rector

## *Time & Talent & Treasure at St. Paul's in 2021*

This November, I will encourage your commitment of Time & Talent & Treasure in **2021**. During Sunday services, I will talk about Stewardship, but we will not fill out the Time & Talent & Treasure Commitment Form during services. Through mail and email, I will send information about our Stewardship Program: **“One Together.”** Please fill out and return your Commitment Form by placing it in the collection plate at a Sunday service, mailing it to the Church Office, or emailing it to me. **In anticipation that we will gradually return to our ministries in 2021**, please complete the Time & Talent portion of the commitment form, by checking the box: **“Yes! I pledge my Time & Talent to support St. Paul’s,”** and check the ministry or ministries in which you desire to serve. Please make your commitments, each person on the Time & Talent portion of the Commitment Form, and one person from your household on the Treasure portion of the Commitment Form. There is information below regarding Treasure, and another page lists the ministries for Time & Talent. Please carefully consider God’s generosity to you and contribute part of them to help the work of **St. Paul’s** as we live: **“One Together.”**

### *HOW MUCH TREASURE SHOULD I GIVE?*

Many people ask if there is a guideline for giving: **“In order to be spiritually healthy, how much of what has been given to me do I need to give in return?”** Everyone must arrive at that conclusion independently. Good stewardship is a constant theme in Sacred Scripture. **St. Paul** provides direction with these inspiring and timeless words:

*“The one who sows sparingly will reap sparingly,  
and the one who sows bountifully will reap bountifully.  
Everyone must give according to what they have inwardly decided;  
not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9: 6-7)*

Stewardship is a way of life that expresses our love through our **“need to give.”** **Christian discipleship that gives through good stewardship is spiritual, generous, and proportionate.** Consider God’s generosity to you, and the amount you return in gratitude. Reflect on your spending on technology, entertainment, and food. Think about the ratio of expenditures to your support of **St. Paul’s** and other charitable efforts. Ask yourself if the portion of your income you give is enough, too much, or not enough.

Once you decide the amount you will give for **2021**, please complete the Treasure portion of the Commitment Form, by checking the box: **“Yes! I pledge my Treasure to support St. Paul’s,”** and write the amount of your pledge on the line provided. Pledges often begin in January. However, a good time to make a new commitment of generosity in gratitude to God for our many blessings is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of our liturgical year, November 29, 2020.

By receiving your commitment, we can better predict annual income. Through sound planning, we can ensure financial stability and budget wisely. The economy, a pandemic, or other events can make it difficult to plan for a household or a church congregation. Without sufficient financing, little else can happen. This is as true for our congregation as it is for a household. Our congregation must meet our operating costs and assure our future ministries. In this way, **St. Paul’s** will be ready to provide service. Please review the information provided and respond generously: **“One Together.”**

Thank you for your prayerful consideration as **St. Paul’s** grows into the faith community God wants us to be through the good stewardship of our Time & Talent & Treasure!