



## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Dear St. Paul's,

November 2024

In recognition of all our many blessings, the 2025 **St. Paul's** stewardship theme is: **"You Welcomed Me!"** This theme is chosen from **Matthew 25:34-36**,

*"Come, you that are blessed by my Father,  
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;  
for I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and **you welcomed me**,  
I was naked and you gave me clothing,  
I was sick and you took care of me,  
I was in prison and you visited me."*

**"You Welcomed Me"** calls us to receive, accept, and embrace everyone. We believe and practice our motto: *All Are Welcome*. We acknowledge our need to joyfully give back to God in thanksgiving for all God has given to us. The result of our giving back to God enables us as **St. Paul's** to love our neighbor as an expression of faith and hope.

**"You Welcomed Me"** describes how we can love and live in the days ahead. This theme is found throughout Scripture, like this inspiring promise in Matthew 10: 40,42,

*"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me,  
and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me...  
and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones  
in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."*

In addition, these encouraging words are found in *Hebrews 13: 1-2*,

*"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,  
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."*

As we approach Advent and prepare to celebrate Christmas, these words in John 10:10 can help us to keep ourselves wholeheartedly focused on God's love for us,

*"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*

This congregation shows its love of Jesus through the ministries you make possible. We continue to welcome many new members to our faith community. We have accomplished new efforts through the Wishing Well Program. Your faithful presence and prayers are what have sustained and strengthened our ministries to adapt, improvise, and overcome along the way. Thank you for your generosity and the gifts you share with our community through your wealth, works, and wisdom.

In **2025** at **St. Paul's**, we are the voice of love for one another in a world so in need of love. We can live more deeply into being generous disciples through our faithful stewardship of our **Time & Talent & Treasure**. 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. Your commitments always make a difference. Thank you for your presence and prayers.

Prayerfully yours,

The Rev. Sean K. Rousseau +  
Rector

## *Time & Talent & Treasure at St. Paul's in 2025*

This November, we encourage your commitment of **Time & Talent & Treasure** in 2025. During Sunday services, the Vestry and I will talk about stewardship and invite you to fill out the **Time & Talent & Treasure** commitment form. We will also mail and email all the information about our stewardship program, “**You Welcomed Me.**”

Please fill out and return your commitment form by placing it in the collection plate at a Sunday service, or mailing/emailing it to the church office. 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 generously to help the work of **St. Paul's**.

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

Many people have asked 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 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 **2025**, 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 suitable 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, December 1, 2024.

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.

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!**