

# Why Do We Pledge?

A pledge is a promise. A pledge to St. Paul's is a promise that we will share our resources within our faith community. Your pledge allows Vestry to budget for program, staff, worship, outreach and facility upkeep throughout the year. Beyond that, pledging also allows us to reflect on the ways we, as individuals and as a community, can share some of what we have with others. Your pledge, then, is a promise to yourself, the faith community at St. Paul's, and our community at large.



*Campers and volunteers at last summer's Vacation Bible School, organized by Youth Minister Jackie Womble, aided by a host of volunteers from the parish.*



*Sue LeDuc with Bhutanese Refugees. Every Monday, with a parish-sponsored interpreter, these newcomers to the U.S. enjoy literacy and citizenship training in the Merrifield Room, one of many contributions of our Mission and Outreach Ministry.*



*Ellie Doersam and Buffy Mann, two long-time valued contributors to the Chancel Choir, which is a source of joyful fellowship for choir members, and spiritual and musical inspiration for choir members and congregation alike.*



*The contribution to worship of children's choirs is a long-standing tradition at St. Paul's, along with a valuable musical and Christ-centered education for choristers.*

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**I will, with God's help.**



*Allan Boron, one of the key members of the Stewardship Team's recycling ministry, shown loading up on paper and cardboard. Saving the earth in small steps.*



*The Cloister Donation Table for the St. Paul's Personal Needs Closet, a Mission and Outreach project that serves those in need in the community, as do our Food Bank collections and Thanksgiving Baskets.*



# ST. PAUL'S 2017 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN





Dear St. Paul's Member:

As the days grow shorter and the leaves begin to fall, we are called to reflect on 2016 and give thanks for the blessings we have received. The St. Paul's community is blessed to have you as a member and is grateful for the gifts of time, talent, and treasure you share with the church and the world around us.

With God as our compass, we are building together a strong community of faith. His guidance always points us in the right direction and brings us together in friendship and communion. We look to Him as our guide, our protector, our savior. He is the corner stone of our building, our community. And you are one of the many building blocks that make up St. Paul's.

Knowing that the continuing work of St. Paul's requires the support of its members, we humbly ask you to prayerfully consider making your pledge to support the 2017 operating budget. This booklet highlights preliminary income and expense figures and activities funded throughout the year.

Thank you for everything you do as a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

With gratitude and in fellowship,

Your stewardship team



*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on a foundation of apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22*



Boxes decorated by parishioners and representing Building Blocks of Ministry at St. Paul's.

## Determining Your Gift

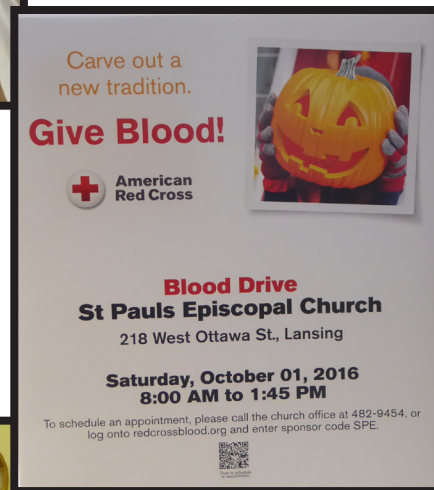
How much should I give? That answer is completely up to you. As you think about your pledge for 2017, please prayerfully consider "proportional giving." In other words, think about what percentage of your annual income you can offer to God by supporting the work of St. Paul's.

Ask yourself whether you could increase your pledge by \$5, \$10, or \$20 per week. For some of us, that's a bit of a stretch right now. But for some others, that increase might be easier to handle than in the past.

And if you can increase your pledge, keep in mind that it will go a long way toward supporting St. Paul's ministries throughout the year.



*Christine and Lars Overway, with Reny and Vera, at Christine's confirmation by Bishop Gibbs, in April 2016. (The children have grown since then!) Christian adult formation is at the heart of educational offerings at St. Paul's, under the faithful and talented guidance of our rector, the Rev. Karen C. Lewis.*



*A poster advertising one of our biennial Blood Drives, a long-standing contribution to the community by the parish, now under the skillful and compassionate guidance of Libby Richardson.*



*Altar Guild members, Thomasina Canty, Chris Krupka, and Jen Humphries, behind the scenes in the Sacristy, on a Saturday morning preparing for Sunday services. This sometimes "invisible" ministry is devoted to heightening the worship experience for the congregation.*

## How Your Gift Helps

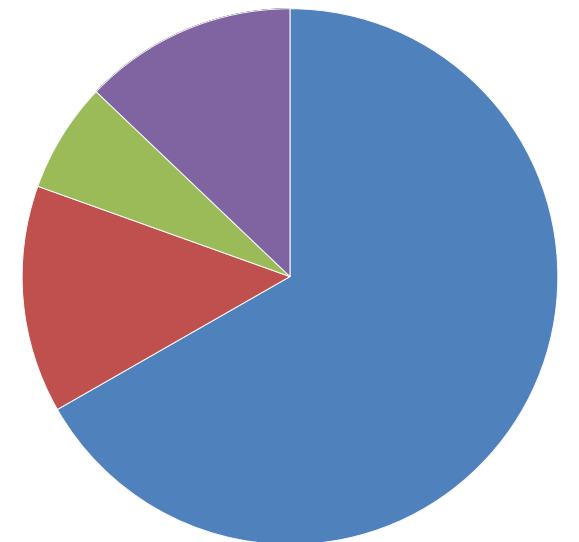
St. Paul's is all about worship, personal transformation, and mission in community. Undergirding the celebratory worship, Christian formation, and compassionate ministries are the mundane realities of managing a parish and maintaining creaky, albeit beautiful, buildings. Your pledges/gifts to St. Paul's literally "keep the lights on"—and pay the heating, air conditioning, and water bills. (Utilities alone cost about \$49,000 per year.) And speaking of "keeping the lights on", replacing our antiquated lighting system in the nave is just one immediate expensive problem we are facing, as replacing our current ceiling bulbs is proving near impossible and our clergy resists head lamps.

Your increased pledges/gifts will help to ensure that St. Paul's continues as a vibrant, spirit-filled Christian community into the future.

Below are pie charts describing our expenses and income, as estimated for 2016.

### INCOME SOURCES

- Pledge Revenue - 67%
- Restricted Program Fund - 14%
- Rental Revenue - 7%
- Other\* - 13%



\* includes special offerings, holiday services, outreach contributions, fund transfers

### EXPENSES

- Staff Salaries - 46%
- Building - 16%
- Utilities - 10%
- Diocesan Pledge - 10%
- Other - 17%

