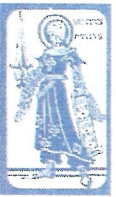


# ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

218 West Ottawa Street  
Lansing, MI 48933  
517/482-9454



*They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. - Jeremiah 17:8*

Dear St. Paul's,

We are pleased this year to talk about the theme of our annual pledge campaign, *Rooted in Abundance*. We are particularly excited because it describes our St. Paul's community, and how we share our gifts with each other.

First, we give thanks for all your gifts to St. Paul's - not just your financial ones. A church needs creative people with new ideas; people to work together solving challenges, and volunteers to keep our ministries focused on the needs of our community and neighborhood. We talk about this in a three-fold way: time, talent and treasure. If any one of these areas is missing from our community, we are diminished.

Every one of us has gifts. For some it is hospitality, others love to sing, some of us have administrative gifts, others enjoy financial talents, or some simply enjoy counting the collection. We admire those who serve at the altar; our ushers who welcome folks; those who fill our Blessing Box, and who work so hard on all our Mission and Outreach projects, such as this year's Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Whatever your ministries and gifts are, we couldn't be who we are without you.

In these years of serving in ministry with you, we have witnessed the ways in which you communicate with each other to get things done: potlucks, God in the Movies, musical events, coffee hour, pastoral care; committee meetings; it all happens wonderfully because you are each deeply connected to each other through your roots of faith and service. **Abundantly.**

We thank you for the ways you have shared your gifts with us - your time, talent and treasure. In the coming days you will be receiving more information about this year's campaign and a request for your financial pledge for 2024. All your gifts are necessary; it is the financial one that keeps the lights and heat on; the staff performing their ministries; the lawn watered, music for the choir to sing; and the bread and wine you consume at the altar. We encourage you to prayerfully consider increasing your pledge as our costs have increased much like yours. Let us work together to stay rooted in abundance. Thank you for your generosity.

In gratitude,

Martha Seaman McKee  
Senior Warden

Bob Merriman  
Junior Warden