



God Builds Us; We Build Each Other; We Build for Others

October 2, 2026

Friends,

There is a lot happening at St. Paul's.

Our community is growing. Our successful capital campaign is enabling us to make important improvements to our more-than-100-year-old church. And whenever I come to St. Paul's—or even drive by—it seems there is always something happening.

That is something to celebrate. But a growing, active church also requires more from all of us.

Our Annual Giving and Stewardship Campaign will begin the weekend of October 17-18. You will soon receive information about this annual appeal in the mail, including details on how to make a recurring gift or pledge. Our Vestry uses this pledge and recurring gift information to predict the income that we can expect for 2026. This, in turn, enables the Finance Commission to create an accurate 2027 budget that meets our parish's needs. **This year, the Finance Committee, the Vestry, and I, as Finance Chair, are asking every member of St. Paul's to prayerfully consider increasing your annual stewardship contribution by 10%.**

What does 10% more look like? If you currently give \$50 a week, we are asking you to consider \$55. If you give \$100, we are asking you to consider \$110. Each individual increase may not seem significant on its own, but together they can make a tremendous difference for St. Paul's.

Why are we asking now, especially after such a successful capital campaign?

Because our most pressing need isn't our building. It's our people.

We are understaffed and stretching our existing staff too thin. We have less clergy at St. Paul's now than we have had in generations. In fact, part of the reason our current financial position looks favorable to budget is that we have been spending less on salaries and related costs than anticipated. That may help the bottom line in the short term, but it is not sustainable for the St. Paul's we are becoming.

At the same time, inflation is close to 4%. We see it every day—in food prices, at the gas pump, and in virtually everything it takes to operate our church. We are also rebuilding our operating reserves after several years of shortfalls following the pandemic. While we currently have approximately 80 days of operating funds on hand, that number has fallen as low as 30 days during the past two years.

Our successful capital campaign does not change those realities. Capital funds care for our church building. Annual stewardship supports the people, programs and ministry that bring it to life. One cannot replace the other.

We need to support the staff who are already giving so much to St. Paul's, fill existing needs, meet rising operating costs, rebuild our reserves, and give our church the capacity to continue growing and serving our community.

St. Paul's is self-funded and self-managed. We are St. Paul's. What happens here is possible because each of us chooses to be part of it—and chooses to support it.

What brought me to St. Paul's, and what has kept me here, is that at every service we welcome those who may have just found their way to us. And every service ends with a call to all of us that "the service now begins."

Our stewardship is part of that service. It supports not only what happens every Saturday and Sunday, but all that happens every day in our St. Paul's community. It allows us to care for the people who make that possible today and to prepare for those who will find their way to St. Paul's tomorrow.

That is our prayer. That is our ask. Please consider increasing your stewardship commitment by 10% this year.

In Gratitude,

Kevin McQuillan, Chair of the Finance Commission