

November
2022
Volume
LXXXVII

THE EPISTLE

St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
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Rector's Corner



Being Good Stewards of St. Paul's

Money is probably the last thing that a new rector, interim or otherwise, wants to have as their first order of business. So when I learned that the annual stewardship campaign was coinciding with my first days and weeks with you, I was initially less than excited. Don't get me wrong, I've been through this little pledge card dance we all do many times before - both as a priest and as a person in the proverbial pews. I've filled out my fair share of pledge cards, including ones from St. Paul's! I've already submitted my pledge for this next year, and I enthusiastically hope you will too!

As you will undoubtedly hear me talk about over the months to come, according to the Gospels, Jesus actually said quite a bit about how he wants us to generously, joyfully, unhesitatingly **give** rather than protectively, fearfully *guard* the material resources that we have come to have some control over. This whole business of dedicating a meaningful amount of that to God each year, by way of the Church, is about much more than meeting a budget. It is arguably one of the most meaningful and/or difficult of all the spiritual practices and disciplines. And you so will hear me talk about "stewardship" with some frequency . . . not just during pledge card season.

I actually think naming our annual collection of giving commitments a "stewardship" campaign is a little bit of a misnomer, perhaps. As a component of our faith, stewardship is about so much more than our pledge or tithe or financial giving. It's about how we care for all that God has entrusted to us, which can be measured not just with dollar signs but in so many other ways.

One of our most valuable treasures is our church. Yes, I mean the building, in part. But even more so I mean the health and vitality of our church's mission and ministry. I mean how this church is helping you and others thrive spiritually and grow in our knowledge of God's Word. How we are being a support to one another and to all the neighbors Jesus has encouraged us to embrace wholeheartedly. How we are magnifying God's light and love into our city and our world.

Interim times, the times between long-term clergy leaders, are perfect times for churches to think about how they are doing all that. Is St. Paul's being called to live out its mission and ministry in some new or different way given who we are as a community today? Where have we grown stagnant or need some kind of renewal or reinvestment?

I'm honored to be in a role now, and over the next year or so, that is designed to help you question and think about all of that. My work and ways will be in some ways different, during this time, than if I were your long-term rector. And so I want to ask, right up front, for both your patience and your full commitment (financially and otherwise) as we make our way down this somewhat uncharted interim road together . . . and work together to see how God is calling you to steward St. Paul's into its next chapter.

Faithfully,
Jadon+



From our Sr. Warden...

What an exciting time we are looking at as we head into the winter months. Our Interim Rector, Rev. Jadon Hartsuff will begin his ministry here the 1st of November. A new Choir Director is on the way. The search committee is working steadily to take us to the next full time Priest in this Parish and Advent is only a month away. It will be a busy time for everyone especially for the next couple months. For the vestry, our next hurdle will be approving the annual budget. What that budget looks like depends on the generosity of the pledging members of this church. We have been blessed at St. Paul's to have the support that allows us to serve this community in many ways. I am hopeful that we can continue with that support as we look to 2023.

I have always thought of my pledge as supporting three-fold purpose. The first people this pledge serves are the ones that support the church. The people that are here or online on Sunday. It is here that we find peace with the friends around us and comfort from the worship services that bring us closer to God. St. Paul's must stay healthy so to serve the community that supports it.

The second is the surrounding community. How do we best use our limited resources to support our neighbors? This is one question with a thousand answers, all of them right. There are so many needs in this community that we can never fulfill them all, but we can make a difference for some, with food, clothing, even a warm place to sleep in winter or a safe meeting place in the summer.

The third is the world at large. People we will never see nor meet. Hurricane victims, war victims, refugees, on and on. Much of this effort is provided by our tithe to the Diocese.

The people of St. Paul's have always been faithful and generous with the pledges that fulfill these needs. Please prayerfully and carefully consider your pledge to our church and return your pledge card to the office or to the plate at the in-gathering on November 27th.

God's Peace,

Barney Rudolph

Closet Cleaning at St. Paul's!

We are working on cleaning out closets at St. Paul's. If you have any items in closets that need to be kept, please mark them with a yellow sticky note. Items that are not marked will be brought into Holy Spirit Hall on Nov. 10th and 11th. You may take any items home with you Nov. 13th through Nov. 20th. All items will be free! Any items left after coffee hour on November 20th will either be given away or disposed of as appropriate. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Lathrop, Barney Rudolph, or Deanna Leicht. Thank you for your assistance in this project!



The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW

The month of October is at an end and the leaves, which have put on such a beautiful display, are finally falling. October will end with Halloween or the feast of all Hallows, and November will begin with all Saints day on November 1.

Originally the druidic, Celtic, or pagan festival of Samhain (sow-in), it was reclaimed by the Catholic church and renamed eve of all Hallows or Halloween. The church named November 1 as All Saints Day, thus removing any link to druidism and pagan festivals. But the beliefs lived on in the hearts and minds of the Celtic people and so it is still celebrated today. It is the day when the veil between the world of the living and the dead is removed or thinned. Spirits can move among us and thus we are closer to our dead loved ones and ancestors.

All fires were extinguished before the festival and the druid priests would light a new fire into which the bones of sacrificed animals were thrown. This was known as the "bone-fire" and later became the bonfire we know today. Torches were lit from this fire and taken back to cottages to rekindle extinguished home fires. History is rich in stories and talismans to ward off the more evil of the spirits.

Now down to business. On October 1 we had the great pleasure of having Rev. Melissa to talk to us about her other career s a police officer on the MSU campus. It was a wonderful talk and so great to see Melissa in a role she is so experienced and comfortable in. We had a wonderful turn-out of women for this talk. The information she shared was amazing and such a contrast to her role as our curate and now priest in charge at St. Katherine's in Williamston. We cannot thank Rev. Melissa enough for sharing her 30 years of experience with us all.

The nuts will be arriving on November 11 so watch out for your orders to be fulfilled soon after that. The excess nuts will be sold after services on Sundays until they are all gone.

We will be collecting new and very gently used toys for our Priceless Gifts ministry. Along with that we need personal hygiene items. We are also collecting children's hats, scarves, and gloves for distribution through Priceless Gifts. These winter woolies are much appreciated by the families that use this service, and they don't last long once they are put out.

Please put our December holiday luncheon at the Country Club on your calendar. It will be December 10. ECW meetings are open to ALL women of the church and beyond. It doesn't matter if this is the only meeting you attend for the whole year, you are more than welcome to join us on this special day. We strongly encourage all women to sign up for, what is usually the first celebration of the season. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Our next regular meeting of ECW will be on November 12 when we will have Sheryl Sabo-Grieve from the Interfaith Shelter who heads the warming center ministry there.

ECW continued...

We have heard a lot of inquiries regarding the upcoming season's warming center and all that entails. She will answer all these questions and more. We are looking forward to having her here with us.

Other important dates in November are Veteran's Day on November 11. An important day to remember all those people who fought for our freedom. November 6 is the day we put the clocks back and gain that extra hour of sleep. November 27 will be the first Sunday in advent when we start preparing for the arrival of our savior Jesus Christ.

Let us not forget Thanksgiving. We should be thankful every day for our blessings, but we are among the few countries in the world to set aside a day to remember and celebrate our blessings. Be thankful for all that God has given you. We are richly blessed.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Rowley, Vice-President, ECW.



A great time was shared by all with Rev. Melissa!

Organist's Corner



Meet Jeff Wilkinson St. Paul's Choir Director

After some months of searching, interviewing, and having candidates conduct “interview rehearsals” with a group of St. Paul singers, we have hired Mr. Jeff Wilkinson. Jeff will begin working with us in November. All who have met him or been involved in the rehearsal that he conducted, are excited to begin singing under his direction. Jeff comes to us with a strong Episcopalian background, including over eight years as a professional singer at Christ Church Episcopal in Grosse Pointe, a church with an extensive music program of multiple choirs and a concert series.

Jeff has some roots in Grand Rapids and grew up in a very musical family. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Television-Radio-Film from Syracuse University. He continued on to the University of Michigan, where he graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance. Following that, he studied at the School of Theology at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. He graduated with a Master of Arts degree with a focus on the practical and philosophical aspects of music ministry, as well as theology, liturgy, the sacraments, church history, ethics, spirituality, hymns, psalms, chant, choral literature, multicultural music, organ, conducting, and voice.

Mr. Wilkinson is a tenor who has sung for many years as a tenor soloist in operatic and concert work. While at UM, he was able to enhance his studies in opera by studying abroad in Italy. He is frequently requested for weddings and funerals and as a cantor for church services.

I am looking forward to having such a talented and knowledgeable musician to work with to enhance the worship services at St. Paul's. He is very thoughtful and thorough and shares my love of spreadsheets to keep music organized. I want to express my great appreciation to the members of the hiring committee for their time, diligence, and sound advice. I am also very grateful to all the singers who gave of their time to come for our interview rehearsals and shared their thoughts on the candidates for the choir director job. Seeing a choir director in action provides a level of information that cannot be gleaned from an interview.

Please join me in making Jeff feel welcome at St. Paul's! He looks forward to meeting everyone in the congregation and becoming part of our church family.

Julie J. Baglien
Organist/Director of Music





*You are invited to the Annual
St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

Harvest Dinner

Join us as we spend time together
after the 10:30 service in
fellowship, feast and thanksgiving.



**November 6th, 2022
309 S. Jackson St.
Jackson, Michigan**

Big Guy Catering will be providing the turkey, dressing, potatoes, rolls and gravy. Attendees are asked to bring a veggie/ side dish or dessert. Tableware and decorations provided.

Please sign up if you plan to attend and indicate the number in your party so we can provide Big Guy with an estimate of the number of people to prepare for. Also, please indicate what you will be bringing.

Also, please sign up if you can help with decorating on Saturday before or cleanup after the event.



*For more information, please call the
Church Office at (517) 787-3370*



**YOU'RE INVITED!
DIOCESAN CHRISTMAS
OPEN HOUSE**

12/16/22

6 PM-8 PM

Come join our Bishop as we host folks from neighboring parishes and look forward to Christmas.

From Mission & Outreach

October focus - J-High Community Closet

Thank you St Paul's family for your warm and generous embrace of the Jackson High School Community Closet. Your donations were gratefully received at the school by parent-volunteer Casey Cretsinger. We were able to make a large delivery of easy-to-prepare meal and snack food items, toiletry and hygiene items, laundry soap, and some gently used hoodies and other clothing. Thank you so very much!

As a congregation we look forward to November's ECW of St Paul's collection for the Priceless Gift Toy Store, one of the wonderful family ministries of Together We Can Make a Difference.

Thank YOU for making a difference!

Blessings,
Dana Burkey
Heidi Lathrop



“IN THANKSGIVING”

*This month we are grateful
for:*

**“Our Prayer Team who holds us
all up”**

“Julie for her beautiful music”

“Our faithful sexton Eston”

**“Alice who has kept us
organized during the transition.
Hooray for Alice!”**

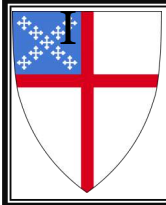
THANK YOU!



Calling all singers!

**Choir Practice starts this Thursday,
November 3rd at 6:30 pm and will
continue on Thursday evenings.**

**Questions? Please see choir director
Jeff on Sunday or email him at
jwilkinson@stpauljxmi.org**



RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

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The Church Assessment Survey (CAT) is coming your way beginning this Sunday, November 6th and ending Sunday, November 20th. Links to the survey will be available through email and on the Facebook feed. Hard copies will be sent through the mail to those who do not have access to email or computers.

Members of the search committee will be available to help you each Sunday after both services. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the search committee. We want to hear from you! Email: Searchcommittee@stpauljxmi.org



November

SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

Thanks & Giving

Day 1: Colossians 3:15-17

Day 2: Philippians 4:6

Day 3: Psalm 106:1

Day 4: Ephesians 2:8

Day 5: James 1:17

Day 6: Psalm 100:4

Day 7: Hebrews 12:28-29

Day 8: 2 Corinthians 4:15-16

Day 9: Romans 1:21

Day 10: Isaiah 12:4-5

Day 11: John 10:10

Day 12: 2 Timothy 4:4-5

Day 13: Luke 6:35-36

Day 14: Psalm 107:8

Day 15: Colossians 1:12

Day 16: 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Day 17: Ephesians 4:31-32

Day 18: Hebrews 6:4-6

Day 19: Micah 6:8

Day 20: Deuteronomy 16:17

Day 21: Proverbs 3:27

Day 22: Proverbs 11:24-25

Day 23: Matthew 6:3-4

Day 24: Luke 6:38

Day 25: Acts 20:35

Day 26: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Day 27: 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

Day 28: 1 Corinthians 13:9-13

Day 29: Matthew 5:10-12

Day 30: Galatians 6:2



Join us for in-person services at 8 am or 10:30 am.

Or Join us online Sundays at 10:30 am:

For the Facebook Livestream of our service follow the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi>

Sunday Worship Bulletins are on our website at <https://stpauljxmi.org/>

You can also view our services later on Facebook.

(You do NOT have to have a Facebook account to view our videos.)

Adult Forum

9:15 am-10:15 am on Sundays in the small dining room.

Email Eric Magnusson (emagnusson75@gmail.com) for more info or questions.

Bible Study



Bible Study will continue to be in person on Wednesdays at **10:30 am** led by Natalie Magnusson in the Small Dining Room.



You should have received this year's stewardship letter and pledge card in the mail for the annual pledge drive. We build our budget each year on the individual pledges of this congregation. If you're not a pledging member, please take the time to become one so we can count on you in our common mission here at St. Paul's. If you are a pledging member, thank you and please consider increasing your pledge this year to help us grow! Return your pledge card by Stewardship Sunday (**Nov. 27th**) to the offering plate or by mail.



Together We Can Make A Difference, a local charity serving needy families in downtown Jackson and throughout the community, is seeking donations for its annual free toy "store." **Gently used** (or new!) toys, games, puzzles, books, stuffed animals, sports equipment for children and teens of all ages (can be dropped off at Tomlinson School on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10am-3pm from now until December 12. Use the back driveway at 730 Tomlinson St, Jackson, MI 49203. www.togetherdifference.org

ECW will be collecting hats, gloves, gently used and new toys and personal hygiene items for the Priceless Gift Toy Store from October 30 through November 20. See details in the glass narthex.



Barbara Lock	November 2
Janet Patch	November 9
Clark Hutchens	November 13
Barney Rudolph	November 16

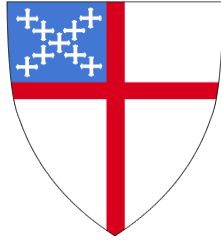


Daylight Saving Time
2022 ends on Sunday,
Nov. 6th!

ALL
SAINTS'
SUNDAY

A sign up sheet is in the narthex for names of our deceased loved ones who have died in the past year. Their names will be read at the Eucharist on All Saints Sunday **November 6th.**

We will set up a table of remembrance in Holy Spirit Hall for parishioners to put pictures and mementos of their deceased loved ones that day so we can cherish their memories during coffee hour or after the service.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Pledging FAQ's

Your commitment in response to God's blessings makes our worship, community life, and outreach possible. We hope these "frequently asked questions" will be helpful to you as you consider your pledge.

What is a pledge?

A pledge is your commitment to make a financial gift that supports the mission of St. Paul's. Pledging is a response to God's abundance in our lives. It is both a statement of thanksgiving and a lived decision to give others as God gives to us.

Why do we need annual pledges?

Your pledge supports everything we do – from paying the salaries of our staff to supporting our outreach ministries, our pastoral care, our worship, our education programs, and our music. In order to know what we can do each year, we need pledge commitments to develop an annual budget.

Can't we just rely on our endowment?

We do have an endowment generously left to us by previous generations of St. Paul's parishioners. It would quickly disappear, however, if we relied on it as our primary source of parish support.

How much should I pledge?

At St. Paul's, every pledge, no matter what amount, makes a valued contribution to our mission and ministry. We ask each parishioner to prayerfully consider making a pledge that is both responsible and significant based on their financial situation.

Our standard of giving should reflect our standard of living. A tithe (10% of your income) has long been held as the standard of each Christian giving. For most it is a goal to be reached through incremental increases each year. To calculate your pledge or tithe, the following chart may help:

Annual Gross Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	12%
\$10,000	\$200	\$400	\$600	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,200
\$20,000	\$400	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,600	\$2,000	\$2,400
\$30,000	\$600	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$2,400	\$3,000	\$3,600
\$40,000	\$800	\$1,600	\$2,400	\$3,200	\$4,000	\$4,800
\$50,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
\$75,000	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$9,000
\$100,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$12,000
\$150,000	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$9,000	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$18,000
\$200,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$16,000	\$20,000	\$24,000

When and how should I pledge?

Pledges are welcome throughout the year, but we would prefer to receive them before December 1st so we can plan for next year. You can make a pledge by bringing pledge card to church, by mailing it in, or by contacting a staff person or member of the Vestry.

Do I have to pay when I pledge? Can I pay in installments?

A pledge is a promise to pay. You may fulfill your pledge with as many or few payments as you wish. Pledges are to be fulfilled on a calendar year basis, beginning January 1.

Can I pay by a gift of stock, a donor-designated fund, or through other means?

We welcome all kinds of pledge payments. You may pay by a gift of stock or financial securities, or through a donor-designated fund. To find out how, contact **Marco Shehab**.

What happens if I can't give as much as I pledged?

While it's a commitment to your church and your fellow parishioners, God's grace abounds. If your circumstances change, let the church know that you need to change your pledge. If you've received unexpected additional income, you are always welcome to increase your pledge.

Who knows how much I pledge?

We hold all pledge amounts in the strictest confidence.

Thank you for all you do to support the mission and ministry of St. Paul's. For more information, please contact our Sr. Warden, Barney Rudolph (517) 474-4367 or Treasurer, Marco Shehab (517) 937-4912, financial@stpauljxmi.org or any of the St. Paul's Vestry Members.



NOVEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Search Comm Mtg (Zoom)	10 :30 am Bible Study	6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Begins!		
6 Birthdays & Anniv	7	8 ELECTION DAY	9	10	11	12
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 8 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ HARVEST DINNER		6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Search Comm Mtg (Zoom) 	10 :30 am Bible Study	6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	Veteran's Day 	10:30 am ECW Mtg
13 Noisy Sunday	14	15	16	17	18	19
8 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Vestry Mtg	10 :30 am Bible Study	6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal		
20 Christ the King	21	22	23	24	25	26
8 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Search Comm Mtg (Zoom)	10 :30 am Bible Study	Office Closed 	Office Closed	
27 Stewardship	28	29	30			
1st Sunday Advent 8 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		6:30 pm Search Comm Mtg (Zoom)	10 :30 am Bible Study			