



October 2020

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

815 East Grace Street,
Richmond, VA 23219
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stpaulsrva.org

CHURCHTOGETHER

Community Giving
Campaign
Steering Committee

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Doug Callaway

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Lee Switz (Chair)

David White

Jean White

Bruce Yoder

Deb Love Yoder
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Dear Friends,

St. Paul's faces the future with unwavering faith and boundless creativity. We are a stable community in an unstable time. Serving one another and engaging with the broader community, we are *Church Together*.

St. Paul told us that one mark of a thriving church is that it will “*rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.*” We shed tears at memorial services, and we share laughter in our Coffee Conversations. We offer laments for the blind spots in our history and rejoice with hope when we see a younger and more diverse vestry dedicated to serving the church. We give thanks for our new, imaginative and caring clergy and our creative and faithful staff.

During this pandemic, when uncertainties abound, St. Paul's is a source of stability and hospitality. Precisely because we rest on the sure foundation of Jesus Christ, we are an inclusive church, warmly welcoming everyone. **With open arms, we are Church Together.**

Two programs that promise healing and growth are coming this fall. One is a **discussion of Blind Spots** by Chris Graham, a book about the history of St. Paul's. The other is **Life Groups**, small groups designed to provide mutual encouragement for our spiritual lives.

Three steadfast outreach partnerships continue: Emmaus, Woodville Elementary School and Mwitikira, Tanzania. We set up a new COVID-19 Relief Fund to aid agencies addressing needs emerging from this pandemic. We have given more than \$205,000 in grants to 33 organizations.

This is an uncertain time. It is also the time to keep St. Paul's strong and make it stronger. That is why we invite you to join us in contributing to this year's Community Giving Campaign.

Why does your gift matter this year? The support we receive from the Endowment will decrease by \$24,000, and we have lost revenue from other areas impacted by operation changes due to the pandemic. There have also been savings due to not meeting in person and expenses will go down in 2021, but we will still need to raise \$760,000 from individual pledges to balance our budget.

Let's be clear. Your gift does more than balance our budget.

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It supports mission and outreach, worship and music, parish and community life and buildings and grounds. **Please read the enclosed materials carefully for more details on our finances.**

We are Church Together. Together we embody God's reign on earth. It is all of us, arms linked, moving forward. **And that is why we urge you to consider making a gift of which you are proud to strengthen the ministries of St. Paul's.** Our community needs a church that is strong and compassionate, faithful and hospitable, stable and creative – and so do we.

Your support of our ministries during this difficult time strengthens St. Paul's. Thank you. We know that some of you are facing unforeseen economic difficulties that make it difficult for you to support your church financially right now. We understand. We are confident that others who are able to do so will give generously during this time of uncertainty.

Each person, each family does what it can. Together our gifts help to ensure that we remain a welcoming community for everyone and a church that seeks to meet needs around the corner and across the ocean.

This year's Community Giving Campaign begins on Sunday, October 4th and runs through November 1st. For three weeks, beginning October 9th, volunteers from St. Paul's will contact other parishioners to discuss making a pledge of support. Please expect to be contacted. **If you would prefer not to be called, you can make your pledge by October 7th by e-mailing or calling Sarah Nolan or online here: www.stpaulsrva.org/pledge.**

Additionally, as part of this year's Community Giving Campaign, we are offering a **Congregational Forum** on Zoom following the Sunday Worship Service. Join us **October 11th at 11:00 a.m.** on Zoom to hear a brief update on St. Paul's ministries and an in-depth overview of our financial standing, budget priorities and relationship to the St. Paul's Endowment. There will be an opportunity for questions. You will be able to access the forum through the Sunday Coffee Hour Zoom link here: stpaulsrva.org/livestream.

How can you make a pledge? There are several ways. You can pledge online at www.stpaulsrva.org/pledge, or you can fill out the enclosed pledge card. If you have any questions about pledging, making a financial gift, or this year's Community Giving Campaign, please contact Director of Development and Communications, Sarah Nolan at snolan@stpaulsrva.org or 804-545-5407.

Your gift matters. Your support ensures that we remain Church Together. Thank you for doing what you can to keep St. Paul's strong in this tumultuous time.

With Gratitude,



Lee Switz (on behalf of the Steering Committee)
Campaign Chair