

St. Paul's Church: Community Giving Campaign

Frequently Asked Questions

What is St. Paul's mission and identity?

St. Paul's mission is "Proclaiming Christ in the heart of the City." As an historic downtown church near the political center of our city, we seek to reflect the love and compassion of Christ through worship, community building and outreach. For decades St. Paul's has been a congregation that speaks truth to power and desires to serve our brothers and sisters who are victims of injustice, both personal and systemic. Gifts to our Community Giving Campaign support every aspect of these ministries, within and beyond our walls.

What is the theme and guiding scripture for this year's Community Giving Campaign?

This year's theme is *Church Together*. In this most turbulent of times when we cannot gather physically, we remain a strong and stable community. Through the creative use of technology, we gather online, welcoming not only each other, but new individuals who seek a community of hospitality that can guide their spiritual growth. ***The guiding scripture from St. Paul is to "rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn."*** We are all in this season together, and the Community Giving Campaign invites us to welcome everyone and support one another through the sharing of our financial resources.

I'm new to St. Paul's. How do I fit in during this transition?

If you are new to St. Paul's, we hope you will continue getting to know this community, of which you are a valued part. St. Paul's is at an exciting time in its life and ministry and your presence and participation play an important part in strengthening the church during this difficult time. If you have questions about different ways to get involved, suggestions for our leadership to better support you (and your family) – we want to know!

When will St. Paul's regroup for in-person worship?

The Clergy, staff and leadership of St. Paul's are carefully exploring different ways for us to safely gather and worship together in person. Currently, we are offering small and intimate outdoor worship opportunities on Wednesdays in October. All planning and decision making is guided by the direction provided by our Bishops and Diocesan officials, who are in conversation with health officials and tracking COVID cases in the region.

How do I stay informed about what is happening at St. Paul's?

There are a variety of ways to stay up to date with the on goings at St. Paul's. You can visit our website at www.stpaulsrva.org or sign up for one of newsletters at www.stpaulsrva.org/subscribe. You can also follow us on social media (Facebook and Instagram) @stpaulsrva. If you are not able to access information online or through e-mail, please contact our Administrative and Member Associate, Carter Johann, at cjohann@stpaulsrva.org or 804-545-5401 to request our weekly online newsletter by mail.

What is a Pledge?

A pledge is a thoughtful and serious intention to give to St. Paul's Church for the coming year—a financial commitment to support the worship and ongoing ministries of our church.

Why do you ask us to pledge?

Of course you may support St. Paul's through the Sunday offering, but pledges help the church plan responsibly for the coming year.

How much should I pledge?

Your pledge requires reflection, prayer, and priority. The amount you pledge is entirely your decision. Every gift is important whatever the size. We recognize that these turbulent times have significantly increased economic pressures on some families. You may not be able to support St. Paul's as you have in the past. We understand. We believe that others who are able will step up and give generously from their financial resources during these uncertain times.

Doesn't St. Paul's have endowments to fund the work of the church? Why is pledging so important?

St. Paul's receives income from two separate endowments. The smaller Program Endowment is managed by the vestry and the larger St. Paul's Endowment is managed by a separate board. *See attached document with more details regarding the St. Paul's Endowment.* The investment gain from these endowments contributes approximately 52% to our annual revenue and budgeting process, but does not cover the entire budget. The offering of pledges by members provides witness to our individual and collective commitment to God's work and one another in the world through St. Paul's mission and ministries.

I still have questions about St. Paul's finances/the endowment. How can I get more information?

We will be holding a Congregational Forum on Sunday, October 11th at approx. 11:00 a.m. (following the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service) 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 to for questions. You will be able to access the forum through the Sunday Coffee Hour Zoom link here: stpaulsrva.org/livestream. This forum will be recorded.

Is my pledge confidential?

Yes. Only St. Paul's financial staff and one member of the parish know the amount of your pledge. Each year we publish in our annual report an alphabetical list of pledgers to thank you. You may choose to be anonymous.

What if my situation changes, and I cannot fulfill my pledge?

Circumstances change. Your pledge is an intention, not legally binding. Should your circumstances change for any reason, please contact Sarah Nolan, Director of Development and Communications, at snolan@stpaulsrva.org to have your records changed.

Ways to Give

There are several ways to fulfill your pledge:

- Make regular monthly, quarterly, or annual payments by **check, cash, or stock transfer**.
- Use your bank's online bill paying system, and set up regular periodic payments directly to the church.
- Secure electronic payment option on St. Paul's website: www.stpaulsrva.org/paypledge.
- Apply appreciated stock or IRA payouts to fund your pledge. If you are 72 years of age, it is possible to make charitable gifts up to \$100K each year tax free, but the payment must come *directly* from your IRA account. Let us know, and we can provide assistance navigating your options.

More information: www.stpaulsrva.org/pledge ~ snolan@stpaulsrva.org ~ 804-545-5407