



ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
EPISCOPAL

*Pat*ent
ENDURANCE

Dear St. Paul's family and friends,

"The seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest." Luke 8:15 (NLT)

Our annual pledge campaign this year takes its inspiration from St. Luke's parable of the seeds and soil. As we all consider how we will support St. Paul's Cathedral in the year ahead, I invite you to think of the cathedral community as that good soil in which you are planted. The good soil of St. Paul's provides us with support in difficult times and opportunities to celebrate joyous moment, and nurtures each member in our growth into the full stature of Christ.

How does our generosity nurture the seeds of growth in us?

- **Making a pledge** is a way that we in the church joyfully share the gifts that God has given each of us. Each pledge makes our community stronger.
- This year's contentious national election, concurrent with the pledge campaign, means that more than ever, St. Paul's can shine as a community that is centered on God's love and has a place for everyone. Making a pledge is a way to **make a positive difference** and an eternal investment, regardless of the election outcome.
- Like planting a seed, making a pledge is **an act of faith**. We trust that God will use our gifts to accomplish the mission to which God has called us.
- In an ever-changing world, St. Paul's seeks to connect people to God and serve our neighbors in ways that are culturally relevant and sensitive to current issues.
- Our annual giving provides the funds for staff and on-going ministry expenses that enable us to make the most of our recent and on-going substantial, long-term investments in the 525 Olive facilities and the Music Center.
- A consistent and growing base of pledges will enable us to maintain and expand our ministries year after year as costs increase. We continue to rebuild our chorister ministry; our partnership with Voices of our City continues to grow and deepen; and our outreach to the neighborhood around us grows with each community dinner party, game night, and concert. The current strategic planning effort will provide direction as we move forward.

Love Christ • Serve Others • Welcome All



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Our campaign goal for 2025 is \$1,100,000: this represents a 5% increase over 2024's goal. The funds required to support the cathedral's staff, buildings, and programs increase each year. If your personal budget has increased in the last year, would you consider increasing your pledge commensurately?

- **Proportional giving** is a commitment to giving a percentage—be it 2%, 5% or 10%—of your annual budget to God. Committing to pledge a proportion of your personal budget is a way to make sure your pledge grows each year as your available resources grow. A proportional pledge as a share of your spending reflects the priority of your faith and the church in your life. It is a financial expression of discipleship, sharing a percentage of income as a grateful response to God's blessings, helping to build a more just, inclusive, and loving world. The amount of the gift is tied to your income, providing long term support to the cathedral as incomes grow and inflation progresses. (And remember, you can reduce your giving any time you need to; just let us know). Many parishioners are already increasing their giving estimates, and I am deeply grateful.

How might St. Paul's shine as a beacon of love and welcome in this troubled world? How do we continue to enrich the good soil so that our faith can grow strong and healthy? We invite you to explore these questions with us as we look to Ingathering Sunday, on November 17th, when you will present your giving estimate at the altar, and the year of growth ahead. **Thank you** for the generosity you have shown in the past and for your continued commitment as we move forward together.

Your sister in Christ,

The Very Rev. Penny Bridges

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