

*Blessed shall you be when you come in,
and blessed shall you be when you go out.*

~ Deuteronomy 28:6 (NRSV)

The 2011 Annual Commitment Campaign
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights

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and blessed shall you be when you go out.*
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The doorways which mark our coming and going from St. Paul's are points of blessing, indeed!

We come in to be blessed by our participation in worship of God; blessed by glorious music; blessed by comforting and challenging sermons; blessed by the grace of sacrament received. We come in to be blessed by Christian Formation for all ages – classes, study groups, and thought-provoking discussion. We come in to be blessed by our fellowship with one another; blessed by joys celebrated and burdens shouldered together; blessed by conversation and meals shared with friends, old and new. We come in to celebrate God's gift of creativity, in nave and gallery alike.

Yet the Scriptures tell us again and again that we are blessed to be a blessing. Just as we come in, so also we go out – for blessing.

We go out, strengthened for service to our community and our world. We go out to feed and clothe and tutor. We go out determined to be patient, caring, and courageous. By God's grace we go out, in the words of the prophet Micah, to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

We are excited about our upcoming refurbishments, made possible by the recent capital campaign. Among them will be a new doorway soon to grace our reconfigured north entrance – a clear, accessible, and welcoming entry! But the doorway is only as important as the blessings for which we enter and depart. To enable all those blessings we need your generous support in the Annual Campaign for 2011!

I urge you to read and pray over this brochure, and respond generously. Please enable St. Paul's to continue as a vibrant parish at which we are richly blessed in our comings and goings.

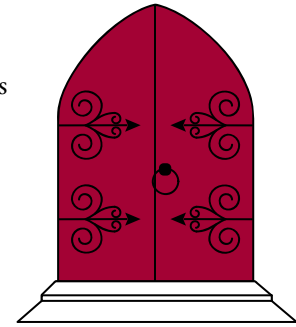
Faithfully and fondly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan M. Gates" with a small cross symbol to the right of the name.

The Rev. Alan M. Gates, Rector

Our Objectives and Timeline

Stewardship is a thankful response to God's abundance — the abundance of spirit and community within our doors and the opportunity to share God's grace and love as we go out into the community and the wider world.



Welcome to the 2011 Commitment Program!

Through it we aspire to

- successfully communicate the budget priorities for 2011 and the importance of pledge participation.
- significantly increase the total number of pledges through new or renewed pledges.
- raise an additional \$200,000 in increased or new pledge income.
- introduce the opportunity for additional pledge amounts to be directed to specific need areas.
- celebrate each and every gift.

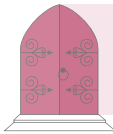
Timeline for the Commitment Program

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|---------------------|---|
| September 26 | The 2011 Annual Commitment Program begins.
Stewardship Reflection by our Senior Warden |
| October | Wine and Cheese Neighborhood Gatherings |
| October 10 | Stewardship Reflection by a Fellow Parishioner |
| October 18 | Pledge cards will be mailed to parishioners. |
| October 24 | Stewardship Reflection by a Fellow Parishioner |
| November 14 | Commitment Sunday |

We come in...



Many doors are opened to our youth to experience Christian community and spiritual growth through the confirmation program, drama ministry, choir and acolyte programs, Harlan and other outreach activities, diocesan events, and more.



The doors of St. Paul's represented safety and comfort to two frightened Cleveland Heights girls as they sought refuge while fleeing a threatening situation.



Our faithful Hospitality Hosts and usbers open wide the doors so that all may enter and be welcomed into community as we celebrate God's presence in and among us with joyous worship, praise and song.

...we go out!



Doors were widened to the joys and benefits of reading this year through the participation of more than two dozen St. Paul's volunteers in reading camps both within our local community at Cedar Hills Camp and as part of our continuing ministry in Appalachia.



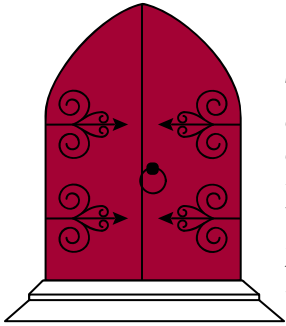
Thirty trained Stephen Ministers have been sent out through our doors to give comfort to many in the St. Paul's community, residents of the men's homeless shelter on Lakeside Ave., and members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.



St. Paul's helped open the doors of two new foster homes in S. Africa and given hope to abandoned or orphaned children whose lives have been devastated by the AIDS pandemic.



Priorities & Opportunities for 2011



The Rector has identified our financial needs and opportunities for 2011. Following is a summary of those budget areas, which are over and above the minimum operating level at which we have been working for the past two years. Meeting these priorities will begin to return our parish to a more realistic operating level.

Provide Staff Raises

Our devoted and hard-working staff has remained at the same salary level for three years. They have worked harder than ever with decreased program budgets and have done so without complaint. Providing modest salary increases to our staff and clergy is essential.



Restore Youth Ministry Staffing

Strong youth ministry is a core value at St. Paul's, and part of our investment in keeping the parish viable into the future. It is important that we provide for restoration of youth ministry staffing hours in 2011 to maintain programmatic and pastoral ministry for our youth and their families.



Increase Sexton Hours

Sexton hours were cut by attrition in 2009, after significant previous cuts in the 2003-2004 deficit years. Our sextons work hard but simply cannot keep up with even the basic maintenance needs at the current level.



Maintain Proportional Giving to Apostleship

In 2010 we made a modest cut to Apostleship in proportion to the overall budget decreases in 2009 and 2010. Restoring those cuts and providing apostleship increases in proportion to the overall budget is a moral obligation.



Restore Program/Ministry Budgets

Program budgets in all ministry areas were cut by 15-25% in 2009 and 2010. Though staff has "done more with less" admirably, for the fullness of parish offerings, we seek to restore these budgets.



Continue Communications Upgrades

Improvements to our electronic communications have been very well received. Further upgrades are proposed, such as linked features for parish groups and committees and online audio of sermons and/or musical recitals.



Increase Administrative Support for Program Staff

Due to reduced support staff hours, program staff members are required to do much of their own administrative work (mailings, photocopying, logistical arrangements). Increased support for Christian formation, apostleship, and pastoral programs would free up the clergy and program staff for their professional duties.



"St. Paul's has been our cherished Parish Community for nearly thirty years. For us it is our starting place that fosters our personal faith and spiritual growth through the engaged leadership of clergy and staff and the supporting relationships of the Parish family.

Together we love and learn as we seek to understand and do God's will; and we are inspired to serve the greater community and world along with our family and friends in our evolving relationship with God. For all of this we are forever grateful and strive to enhance our engagement and support for St. Paul's."

— Sally and John Morley

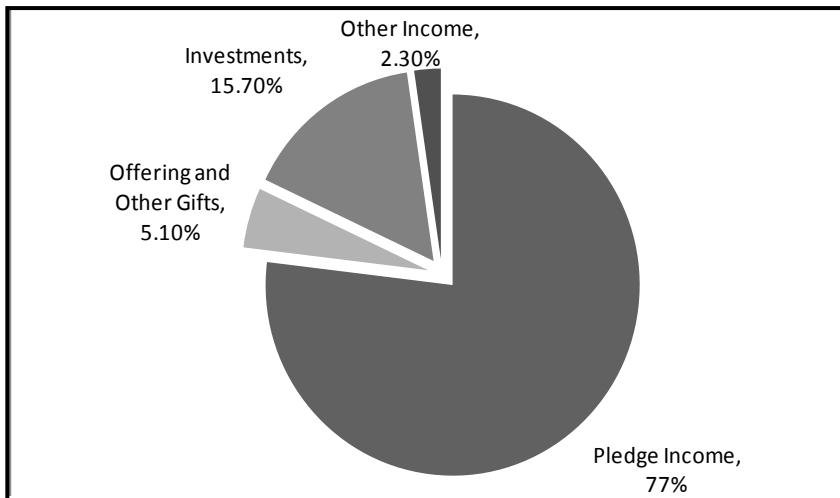


"The Saint Paul's youth program is one of the most amazing gifts that our church has to offer. I have seen the true unconditional love that God gives us through the youth leaders and the lifelong friends that I have made. I am so thankful that the youth program has made such a strong impact on my life."

— Grace Gamble



Where does the money come from?



Pledge Income has increased as a percentage of our total income (from 70% to 77%) in the last two years due to the diminished value of our invested funds.

Offering & Other Gifts include Easter, Christmas and Thanksgiving offerings, loose plate offerings as well as other special gifts.

Other Income sources include room fees and income from the cell phone antennas in the bell tower.

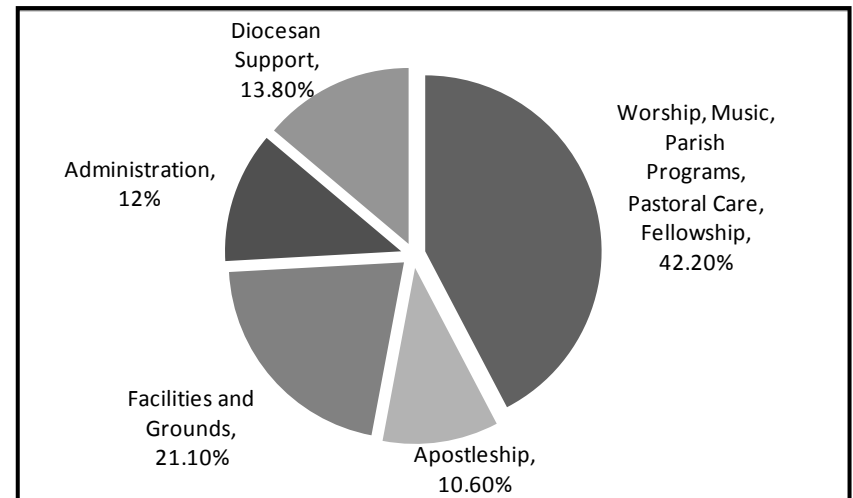
Pledge Statistics: In 2010, pledges ranged from \$1 to over \$1,000 per week. The average annual pledge was \$2,665 and the median pledge was \$1,200. Our youngest pledging member is 9; our oldest is 95.



“For all of the blessings that God has provided us, we believe that our stewardship to St. Paul’s is an opportunity to share His love by supporting the Church and providing for others.”

— Jackie and John LeMay

Where does the money go?



Did you know?

- The approximate annual cost to run the church per contributing household is \$3,740.
- Children and youth formation programs cost approximately \$800 per participant each year.
- Each year St. Paul’s allocates some \$70,000 in operating funds and facility provisions to help the Open Doors program keep their doors open.
- The total annual cost in 2009 for the coffee served each Sunday morning and at meetings and other gatherings during the week was \$5,000.



“I am inspired to support St. Paul’s because of our work in three areas: children and young people, outreach to our community and beyond, the support offered to each of us on our personal spiritual journey. I am proud that this is St. Paul’s.”

— Cathy Lewis

Directed Giving

The passion and engagement experienced at St. Paul's can vary greatly among those who worship together on Sunday morning. This year, recognizing that St. Paul's provides a unique point of light for each of us, we are introducing the option to offer thanksgiving for the program or ministry where you find your passion by directing the increased portion of your gift to that program area. This is a wonderful opportunity to express your gratitude for the abundance you have received while participating in the life of St. Paul's.

As part of the 2011 Commitment Program, you may direct the increase in your pledge over the previous year's gift to one of the following program areas that you find the most meaningful:

- Apostleship
- Staff raises
- Youth ministry
- Restoration of program cuts (Christian Formation, membership events and activities, music, staff and lay leadership training)
- Facility maintenance (sexton hours, deferred maintenance items)
- Enhanced communications

This is an invitation to respond personally to an area of ministry which has given you great joy and satisfaction, and to have the knowledge that the value of your gift will increase many times over as it touches the lives of many within our church community and beyond. Of course, the option always remains to direct your increased gift to general support.



“We give as an outward expression of our love, thanksgiving and faith. Love for God and our parish community that is doing such great things. Thanksgiving for those who came before us and provided such a rich nurturing environment in which to thrive. Faith that by giving, we continue that tradition of growth and nurture for generations to come.”

— Katy and Jim Ptacek

Frequently Asked Questions

☞ **What is stewardship?** Stewardship begins with the acknowledgement that all that we have in this life has come to us through the grace and love of God. Recognizing the many blessings in our lives, we give out of gratitude, with no strings attached, returning to God a portion of what we have been given. *Stewardship is a way of life.*

☞ **Why is completing a pledge card important?** Completing a pledge card demonstrates a personal commitment that you are making to God to support the work of the Church. The act of pledging helps us to live into the Christian concept of “First Fruits:”

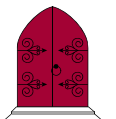
We return to God a portion of what we have been given rather than offering to God what is left over after we have finished spending on ourselves.

A pledge also allows the Vestry to responsibly structure a budget for carrying out God's purposes through activities such as faith formation, mission, outreach, worship, and pastoral care.

☞ **When should I pledge? Where is my pledge card?** Pledge cards will be mailed on October 17th. Once your pledge decision has been made and the card completed, you are invited to place it in the offering plate on Commitment Sunday, November 14th. Pledge cards can also be mailed to the church, to be received by November 14th.

☞ **How can I pay my pledge to St. Paul's?** Pledge payments are gratefully received weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. Please indicate your payment intentions on your pledge card and whether you would like to receive weekly offering envelopes. You can also indicate if you would like to arrange a monthly electronic funds transfer. Gifts of securities and stocks are also welcome. Brenda Burton in the finance office can provide instructions.

☞ **Can I use my credit card to pay my pledge?** Yes! We are in the process of establishing online giving using credit cards and electronic funds transfers. Please stay tuned!



How much should I pledge?

What is proportional (or percentage) giving?

Proportional giving is intentional giving based on a percentage of annual income. The Biblical injunction to tithe a tenth of what you have received from God back to God sets the bar high. The teachings of the Episcopal Church affirm this biblical standard.

If you are not currently tithing, we ask you to consider a commitment to proportional giving using small steps. Promise to give two or three percent each year as a starting point (the average pledge to churches nationally is 2.6% of income).

Set a goal to increase your percentage giving each year until you reach a place where you feel you are giving sacrificially, meaningfully and joyfully! Please use the chart below to help you find your proportional gift.

Proportional Giving as a Percentage of Income

Annual Income	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
1% Giving	\$250	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,000
3% Giving	\$750	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$6,000
5% Giving	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000
10% Giving	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$20,000

“St. Paul’s offers me a myriad of ministries to serve our community and to reach out to the world beyond our borders. It also lets me experience the serenity of evensong. There are many things to be grateful for at St. Paul’s.”

— Dixon Morgan



Open your door wider to giving

After reading over the brochure, we invite you to consider your pledge to the 2011 Commitment Program. Pledge cards will be mailed out on October 18. We hope that the following proportional giving tool will be helpful to you.

My income \$ _____

Use either before-tax income or after – you decide. If your circumstances change, you can always adjust the amount of your pledge.

Pick a percentage: _____%

If you are new to the idea of proportional giving, try using the national average of 2.6%. Or, if you’ve pledged in the past, consider increasing your percentage giving by 1%.

Multiply: \$ _____ x _____% = _____

This is your pledge for 2011. How do you feel about this number? Is it in proportion to the importance of St. Paul’s in your life? How is it in proportion to the other ways you spend money?

Consider directing the portion of your pledge that represents the increase over last year’s pledge.

Directed giving budget area _____

Amount of increase for directed giving \$ _____

Stewardship is everything we do after we say, “I Believe.”

2010 St. Paul's Vestry

David Hartt, *Senior Warden*

Jan Wolf, *Junior Warden*

David Robertson, *Treasurer*

Judy Stuelpe, *Clerk*

Janet AuWerter

Frances Bachman

William D. Buss

Chris Chance

Fitzroy DaSilva

James Eller

Jay Morgan

Kirsten Radivoyevitch

Tres Roeder

Margaret Sloan

Stewardship Committee

Vicki Stouffer, *Chair*

Janet AuWerter

Tami Brown

Greg Gillooly

Jamie Hogg

Charlie Jones

Cathy Lewis

Charlie Mayer

Jay Morgan

Pete Scriven

Suzanne Stratton-Crooke

Pam O'Halloran, *Acting Stewardship Coordinator*

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Kim Fry

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