

2008

# Guide TO iving

Support the Vision

*In Us & Through Us*



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Cleveland Heights, Ohio



# Sewardship

means that all we have is a gift from God.  
How we live, and use these gifts, is our gift to God.  
We are stewards of

*the earth.*

*our faith.*

*our talents.*

*our families.*

*our financial resources.*

# Giving to St. Paul's

...is **stewardship**.

...is an act of sacrifice, communal **worship**.

...connects us all together in **kinship**.

...empowers **apostleship**.

...exercises individual **discipleship**.

# Message from the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

This *Guide to Giving* is intended to provide pertinent information about our life and ministry at St. Paul's. This year we have begun the initial phases of implementation of our Long Range Plan, presented in the booklet "In Us and Through Us." It is your giving which promises to make this plan a reality, and which gives life to the Body of Christ as we continue Christ's work at St. Paul's.



The ministry that extends "in us and through us" depends upon your financial commitment. The generous and faithful participation of all our members will enable our vision to be realized and even, by God's grace, to be exceeded. Giving is a matter of trust, and I thank God for the trust and generosity of so many who have brought us to this exciting point in our life together.

I invite you to use this giving guide as a reference, and when the time comes to make an annual pledge for our operational budget, prayerfully to consider a generous gift in support of the work of Christ at St. Paul's and beyond. When you do, I hope you view this as not simply a financial or budgetary decision, but rather as a spiritual one – an expression of deep gratitude and faithfulness.

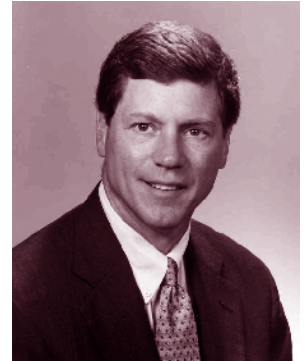
Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan" followed by a small cross symbol.

The Rev. Alan M. Gates  
Rector

# Message from The Stewardship Committee

Each year St. Paul's promotes stewardship through the annual pledge program as the process by which we create the resources to support the activities of our parish community. Last year's opening letter dealt with the two languages of stewardship under the banner, Giving to God... Giving to Others. The Stewardship Committee acknowledges the duality of language in developing resources from the parish. Giving to the Church is a spiritual process AND it is a financial decision. Jesus taught "Give unto God what belongs to God and give unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar." Jesus provided guidance for decisions about wealth and also clearly taught that financial decisions are deeply spiritual.



St. Paul's has plotted an exciting and challenging agenda for growth: in spirit, in engagement, in apostleship, and in ministry. In order to meet this challenge, we will also need to grow our communal giving. Everyone can participate. Everyone can help. Every pledge matters.



St. Paul's offers each of us a unique opportunity to enhance our spirituality by giving generously of our material wealth. Stewardship is not giving to a charity but giving back to God what God has first given us. *In Us and Through Us* embodies our belief in the power of community—the call to honor our relationship with God by nurturing humanity, caring for the poor, and striving for peace and justice. Stewardship is all about value and importance and is the means to put our faith into action.

We are very excited about Stewardship 2008. St. Paul's anchors our lives in love and Christ, and fosters a loving, stable and unified community in an often fragmented and increasingly uncertain world. As we work towards Promise Sunday, the Stewardship Committee will actively engage this parish in a conversation on giving and achieving our mission to support our growing ministry.

We invite you to join us on this journey of duality as we give, recognizing that it is God who gives *In Us and Through Us*, individually and collectively.

Tom Hartland  
Chair, Stewardship Committee

Bill Kimball  
Minister for Stewardship

## Increase Needed in 2008

St. Paul's 2008 budget is an increase of 5.4% over last year. To meet this need, we need an increase of 7.9% in pledged income for 2008/2009. This higher increase in pledged income is necessary because of the anticipated budget needs for 2009 and other increases as we implement the long-range plan. Our goal of \$1,440,000 in pledge receipts represents this 7.9% increase, which will allow St. Paul's to meet our budgetary needs. Any pledge amounts beyond this goal will help us accelerate the implementation of some long-range plans, extend our outreach, and further strengthen the fabric of our community of faith.

## 2008 Case for Support

St. Paul's is a thriving and growing community of faith. As we begin the initial implementation phase of our long-range plan, summarized in the document *In Us and Through Us*, stewardship has been identified as both a core value and a strategic goal.

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**STEWARDSHIP** is a *core value* in its broadest understanding as we seek to live out God's call as caretakers of all that we have and all that we are.

**STEWARDSHIP** *communally* means that we all share in the responsibility to care for our church: the facility, the staff, and one another.

**STEWARDSHIP** *individually* means we are responsible to give faithfully of our resources and ourselves to advance the Kingdom of God through the mission of St. Paul's.

**STEWARDSHIP** as a *strategic goal* means that we will provide the financial and personal resources to accomplish the other six goals of our long-range plan.

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God works *In Us and Through Us*. The Stewardship Committee, with the blessing of the Vestry and the Rector, requests your support for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in the 2008-2009 Pledge Program in the following ways:

- Attend worship on Promise Sunday, April 27, 2008.
- Make a financial pledge to support St. Paul's.
- Leadership is asked to add a significant increase to their pledge this year.
- Those who pledged last year are asked to consider a meaningful increase to support the vision.
- Those who have not pledged in the past are asked to consider making a pledge as an act of faith and discipline in your spiritual formational journey.

# How Much Should I Give?

Giving is a personal and spiritual decision, and thankfully we have many resources to guide us in answering this important question.

## Giving Guidelines from Scripture

*Tithing.* In the Old Testament this was the practice of bringing a tenth or 10% of one's livelihood to be sacrificed to God. The principle in the Old Testament meant that the faithful would give back to God 10% of their annual income.

Jesus in the New Testament spoke more about money and wealth than any other subject, second only to the Kingdom of God. The reason is simple – it poses a great risk to our faith in God. In other words, money and wealth tempt us to divert our trust and dependence on God with temporal security. Jesus taught this clearly in the Sermon on the Mount when he said:

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

Matthew 6:19-21



*Giving is an important part of living. I prefer giving to support our spiritual family at St. Paul's than giving to support secular organizations whose members I don't know.*

— Lanse Hoskins

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## Other Scriptural Guidelines

*Proportional Giving* invites you to consider giving a specific portion of your income to God’s work through the church. Some go beyond the tithe, and many who work toward a tithe give proportionally as they strive to grow each year. A proportional giving chart is shown below for your reference.

*First Fruits Giving* is the discipline of giving to God as a *primary* commitment, rather than from what is left over after all our other needs and desires are satisfied. The discipline of giving to God first reminds us that all we have comes from God, and giving to God first helps us keep God first in our lives.

## Giving Guidelines from the Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church has adopted tithing, or giving 10% of our income to God, as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians. This was adopted by the 1982 General Convention, with the Standing Commission members adding this personal statement of clarification: “*We understand this to mean giving at least 10% of our income to the work of God.*”

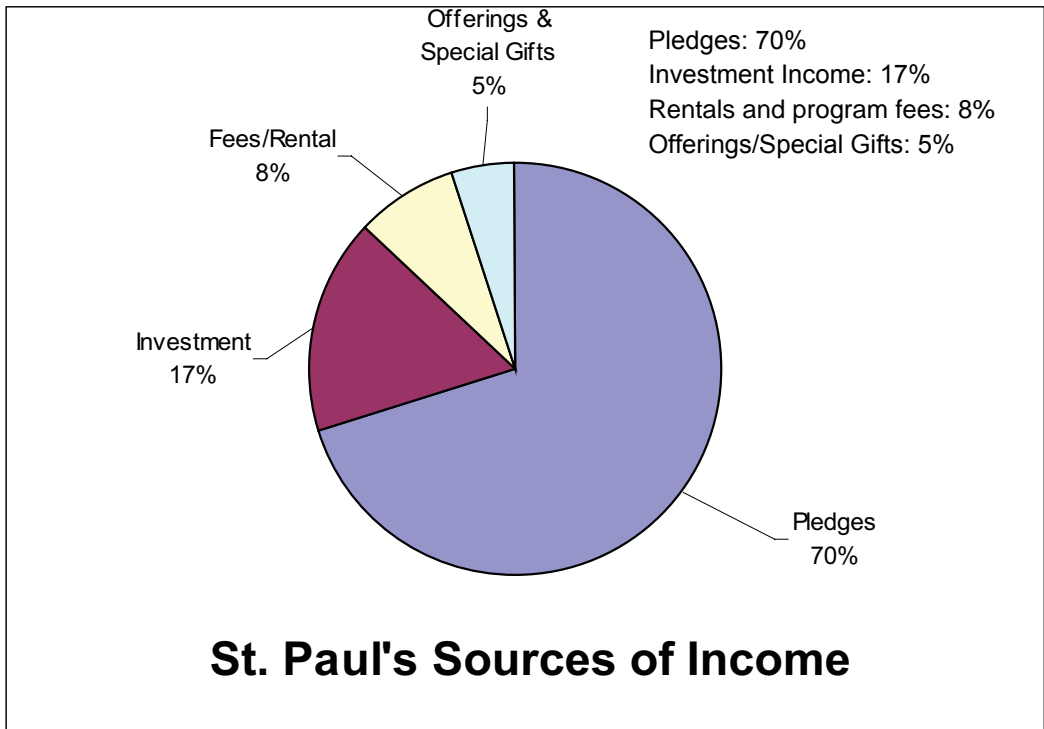
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### Proportional Giving as a Percentage of Income

| <i>Annual Income</i> | <b>\$25,000</b> | <b>\$50,000</b> | <b>\$100,000</b> | <b>\$200,000</b> |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 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         |

# Guide to the Sources and Uses

The sources and uses of funds for St. Paul's represents the annual mission of our parish community. St. Paul's is a major institution in our community that faithfully maximizes its resources to accomplish God's work. We commit over 22% of our budget to mission beyond our walls through apostleship, outreach, and diocesan support. The dollar amounts reflected in the graphs do not effectively represent the value or extent of the spiritual blessings we receive through giving – a priceless gift.



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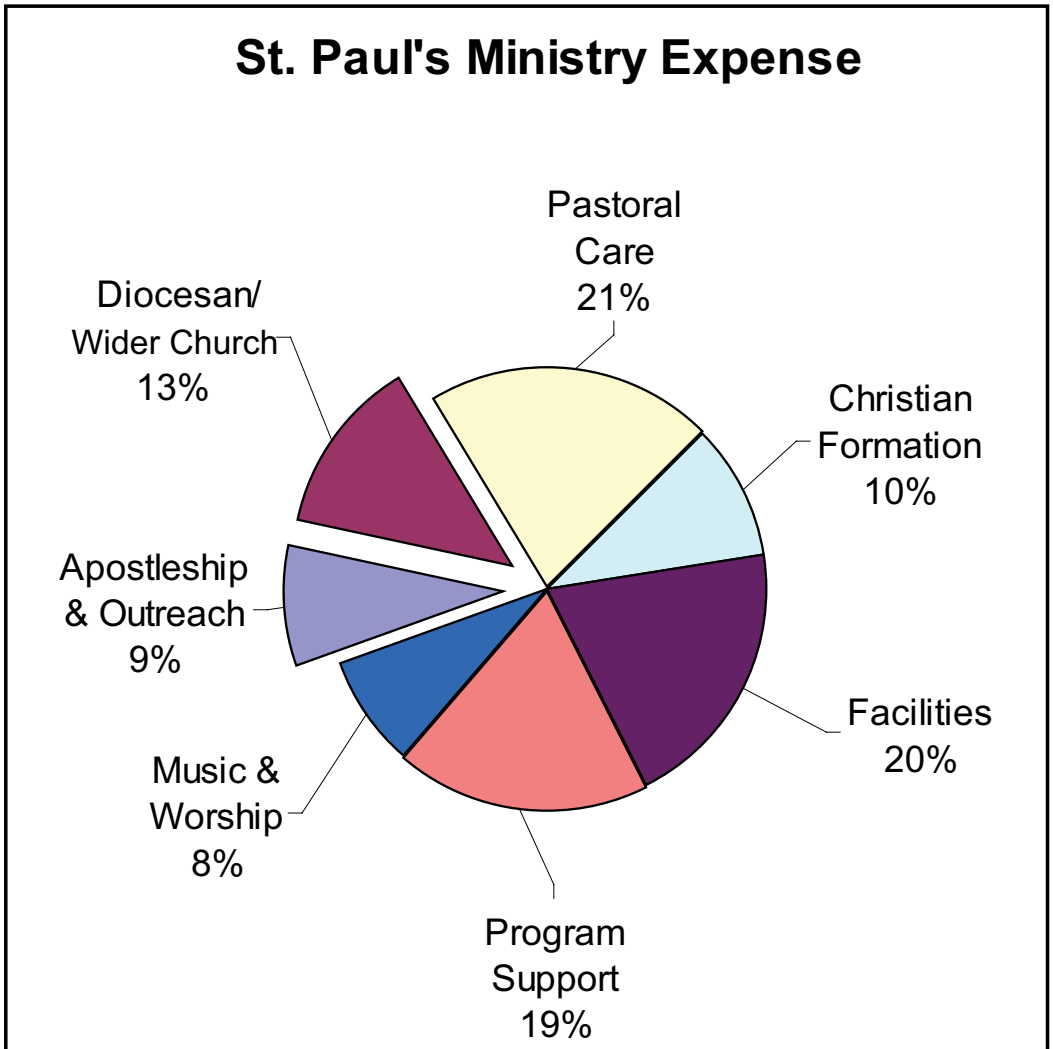
**St. Paul's 2008 budget is \$2 Million.**

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# Uses of Giving at St. Paul's

We give and use the gifts very effectively. Expenses rise annually, and if we are to sustain the parish and progress toward the goals set in our long-range plan, our giving will also need to increase. Every pledge, every gift is important and makes a difference. Your giving is an expression of how God works "in us and through us."



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# How do people give at St. Paul's?

## 2007 Pledge Statistics

- A total of 519 pledged to support the church financially
- A total of \$1,333, 512 was pledged for 7/1/07-6/30/08
- The average pledge is \$2,913
- The median pledge is \$1,350
- Pledges range from \$20 to \$45,000



*Giving more has created a spiritual snowball effect. The more we give, the more we recognize how much we have. That deepens our faith, and makes it easier to give more.*

— John and Elizabeth Moosbrugger

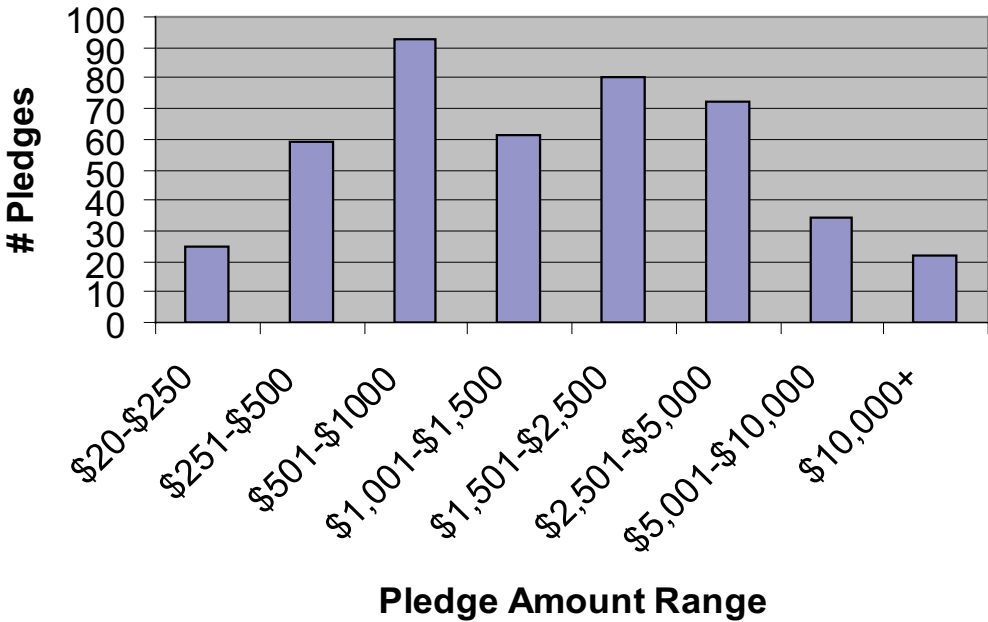
*For many years I was a nominal giver to the church. I did not realize what commitment really meant. I am grateful for the opportunity now to be a generous giver, having learned the importance of sacrificial giving. I feel blessed to be in a position to give back to St. Paul's. It's amazing the spiritual satisfaction that comes from a grateful heart and the gratitude that grows as I continue to give.*

— Martha Horsburgh

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### Pledges at St. Paul's



# Ways of Giving Annual Operational Support

**Pledge.** Each year we invite everyone to consider a financial pledge to support the church. Pledging is heartily encouraged for two reasons. A pledge is a promise, which not only helps the church in its planning and budget preparation, but more importantly pledging helps individuals set a goal for personal giving. We understand circumstances may change that may require a pledge to be adjusted up or down, which can be done at any time. However we believe pledging is important and encourage everyone, regardless of the amount, to make a pledge to support St. Paul's.

**Weekly giving.** St. Paul's provides offering envelopes for those who request them, and this is an excellent way to inspire giving regularly. It also reinforces that giving is spiritual and an act of worship.

**Electronic Funds Transfer.** Many take advantage of this discipline of giving by signing up to have an amount deducted monthly as an offering to St. Paul's. Check this box on your pledge card if you are interested in this means of giving.

**Securities and Stock.** Giving appreciated securities for annual and special gifts may provide significant tax savings when you give appreciated securities. Many at St. Paul's give in this way. It is relatively simple. The finance office at the church will provide you with a form with the instructions.

**Time and Talents.** The church depends on hundreds of volunteers each week to carry out our mission. Stewardship of our time and talents involves finding those ministry opportunities that align with our interests, passions, and God-given gifts. St. Paul's offers a wide range of opportunities to become involved in the church's mission. If you would like to get involved, call the church and ask for The Rev. Kirby Colwell, Volunteer Coordinator and Deacon, or Barbara Pelowski, Director of New Member Ministries.



*I feel continually blessed to be a member of the caring and loving community of St. Paul's, a church that does so much for others through outreach programs. Therefore, it is important to me and dear to my heart to make a stewardship gift in support of all that the church does.*

— Daisy Osborne

# Planned Giving at St. Paul's

We are living the legacy provided by those who have gone before. In our faith, we see the movement of God's vision throughout the Old Testament laws, kings, and prophets leading to Christ. In the New Testament we see the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Today we live resurrected lives, baptized into Christ's death and raised to new life, empowered by the Spirit in our faith journey.

We are living the legacy provided by the saints of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. On August 3, 1849, ten days before the newly built St. Paul's was to be consecrated, it burned to the ground. The members voted to rebuild, many doubling their pledge to the new church, this time to be made with bricks and stone. Services began downtown in January 1851, and for over 150 years, the family of St. Paul's has expressed gratitude and devotion for this church through generous giving and planning for those who will follow.

St. Paul's has a Planned Giving Committee that educates and encourages members to consider planned gifts for the church. Anyone may leave a planned gift. It may be as simple as a bequest in one's will by leaving a specific amount or a portion of one's estate to the church. St. Paul's endowment receives planned gifts into the general endowment, designated funds, and works with donors who wish to endow named or designated funds.

"Stewards for St. Paul's Future" is a group who have currently endowed or planned deferred gifts to the church. There is an annual gathering for fellowship and witness. All are welcome. Contact Dave Fulton, Chair for Special and Planned Giving, for information. Members of the committee include Bill and Mary Conway, David Fulton, Brian Murphy and Carl Walter.

St. Paul's also provides free and confidential consultations for individual members and friends. Contact Bill Kimball, the Minister for Stewardship for information.



*Good stewardship is an expression of gratitude for all the precious gifts God has given to us. Sometimes it is difficult to be grateful for hardships in life, but God is there for us at all times. Being a good steward is doing the best we can under the circumstances we face, and searching our hearts to do the right thing.*

— Jo Walter

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## St. Paul's Stewardship Committee 2008 Goals

To promote Promise Sunday, April 27, for all to attend.

To ask every member to participate, regardless of the amount, in financially supporting St. Paul's.

To encourage those who pledge to consider a generous and sacrificial increase over last year.

To encourage first time pledges to step out in faith with a pledge.

To promote the Scriptural and Episcopal teachings about tithing, first fruits giving, and proportional giving.

To increase our pledged total to \$1,440,000.

To value each and every gift.

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## 2008 Stewardship Committee

Tom Hartland, Chair

Bill Buss, Senior Warden

Rob Crowl

David Fulton, Special Gifts/Planned Giving Chair

Patience Hoskins

Bob Larson

Amy Martin

John Morley

Henry Ott-Hansen

Brendan Patterson

Pete Richards

David Robertson

Brian Skerry

Jo Walter

Marty Wiczorek

Bill Kimball, Minister for Stewardship

