



stewards of  
**God's Grace**

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

✦ **Stewardship 2026** ✦

# A Note from Leadership

St. Paul's family,

## **Have you ever had to take care of something that did not belong to you?**

Maybe it was a family heirloom that everyone agrees should now live at your house, or perhaps a neighbor's pet that you've been asked to watch? *This is called stewardship.* It is the taking care of something valuable that belongs to someone else, in a way that pleases the owner. Although it's a word we don't use often outside of church anymore, it's a concept with which we are all familiar.

Christians are invited to see all that they have as coming from God. All of this life is gift. This means all our abilities, resources, and imagination are not things we possess. They are gifts, given by God to be deployed for the benefit of the healing of the world.

## **Have you noticed that we are at St. Paul's during a particularly dynamic era?**

In a decade of denominational decline, church shrinkage, and decreased religiosity, St. Paul's continues to experience cultural relevance, congregational growth, and spiritual vitality. There is a grace present among us. And as the people God has called to be *St. Paul's* during this particular era, we get to care for and resource this work of the Spirit.

## **We are stewards of God's grace.**

Last year's *Cheerful Giving/What If?* campaign was an overwhelming success. You told us that if we asked for what we needed, you would respond, and you did—big time. Most of the campaign's goals were met, including allowing giving to keep pace with expenses and not using any of our reserves in budgeting. However, some goals, such as reaching the total pledge and participation goal, were not met. Some of the staffing and ministry initiatives we had hoped to undertake in 2025 have had to be postponed.

However, we have confidence that this year's Stewards of God's Grace campaign will build on the momentum of last year's effort and launch St. Paul's into our next decade. Our pledge goal for 2026 remains at \$3 million. This represents an increase of \$300,000 over last year's pledge total.

With these extra dollars, we will:

- Hire a much-needed fifth, full-time priest.
- Hire another sexton for our stretched maintenance team.
- Hire a dedicated IT person to manage live-stream and technology issues.
- Allocate funds for our staff to dream and create new ministries.

Thank you to all of you who made a gift to St. Paul's last year; it truly matters. And to anyone who was unable to give last year or has never made a gift to St. Paul's, I hope you can join us! It is going to take us all pulling together to reach these goals, but I believe we can do it. We are in a unique and privileged place among Episcopal Churches, and we have the joyful responsibility to care for all this grace and goodness in ways that please the one to whom it all belongs.

**We are St. Paul's, and this is what we do.** So, let's do this!

Grace and Peace,



**Dixon+**

**Each of you should use whatever gift you have  
received to serve others, as faithful  
stewards of God's grace in its various forms.**

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)





# Voices of St. Paul's

At St. Paul's, we believe the heart of our church is best expressed through the voices of those who call it home. In the following pages, you'll hear from parishioners of different generations and experiences—lifelong members, clergy, and those who found their way here later in life.

Each reflection shares how St. Paul's has shaped their faith, nurtured their gifts, and created a lasting sense of belonging. Their stories remind us that stewardship is not only about sustaining a church building, but about investing in a vibrant, faithful community that transforms lives.





Rev. Louis-Patrick Mue+



**AS I REFLECT ON THE GIFTS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN ME**, there are two gifts that I have found to be prominent in my walk of faith: a desire to be useful to others and a passion for making scripture, reason and tradition applicable to the lives of others.

I experience these gifts to be most beneficial while I am delivering sermons, leading group discussions regarding faith, as well as providing pastoral care. These gifts are also made evident in participating in community outreach events, as well as being of help to community members/parishioners in whatever way possible.

I have been blessed to have been a member of St. Paul's for the majority of my life. This community has continually provided extraordinary gifts of guidance, support, community, opportunity, and discernment. Invitation to participate in and to help lead things such as the vibrant youth ministry have allowed me to discover and further cultivate my own previously mentioned gifts.

This and the support received from St. Paul's during my seminary journey and beyond serve as examples of the exceptional willingness this community has to share itself and its gifts.

Jenna Patterson



**AS A LIFELONG MEMBER OF ST. PAUL'S**, my involvement in the children's choir has had a profound and lasting impact on both my personal life and my relationship with God. From a young age, I discovered a passion for singing—one of the many gifts God has given me—but it was through the support and encouragement of St. Paul's that this love truly flourished.

Being able to sing in worship alongside other choristers allowed me to connect more deeply with my faith and the church community. In 2023, the children's choir and youth group were given the opportunity to travel to England in order to practice worship and spread our faith in God.

*The trip was one of the most eye-opening experiences.*

Though we participated in more than 15 services during the week, the first thing I wanted to do when I got home was go to church. As a result of the trip to England, my faith grew and I became closer to the people whom I was able to share my experiences with.

This is one of many examples in which St. Paul's works to build a foundation of the Christian faith within the youth at St. Paul's. By doing this, St. Paul's has formed a strong and tight knit community that works to serve others and worship God.

## Sara Weatherman

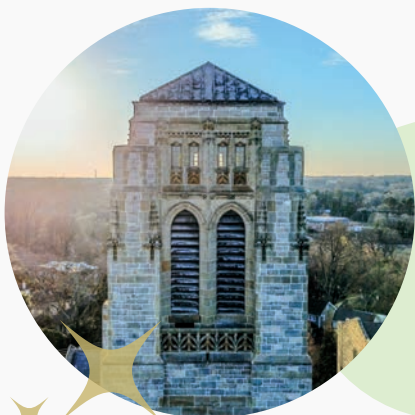


**GROWING UP** in a small church, my family was deeply involved. My dad served as Senior Warden, my aunt was treasurer of the Sunday School, organist at times, and head of the altar guild. She grew flowers for the altar in her garden. The choir consisted of two aunts, two cousins, and an uncle.

After college, I moved to Winston-Salem and began attending St. Paul's to experience a larger church. Music became an important part of worship for me. Transitioning from a beautiful small church to the glorious structure of St. Paul's was a special experience.

In 2008, I retired and became more involved in the church. Initially, it was senior lunches and trips where I made new friends and reconnected with old ones. In 2017, Mike Sprinkle was asked by Sally Engram, then senior warden, to reactivate the Tower Room Archives. Since I had worked with Mike at the Medical School Library, he asked me to help. Discovering our history and dedication of early members has been inspiring. The founders wanted only the best and gave their talents and resources to make St. Paul's what it is today. In addition to being a beautiful place to worship, St. Paul's serves the community. Our outreach programs have touched many lives. For example, Summer Enrichment provides children with fun and adventure in a spiritual environment that influences their lives. We have many opportunities to help. Let's see how much more we can do!





**Bill K. Davis**



**WHEN I WAS JUST STARTING HIGH SCHOOL** in 1952, my family, knowing few people here, moved to Winston-Salem from rural Surry County. We lived at 620 N. Spring Street, within walking distance of Reynolds High School, and also within walking distance of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

My father was an Episcopalian, and my parents had come to know a few members of St. Paul's. It wasn't long before we received a visit from the Rector, Tom Fraser. It seems someone told him about our family's recent move to Winston-Salem. I have never confirmed who did that. We soon began walking the short distance from Spring Street to St. Paul's, and my brother, sister, and I were baptized and confirmed. We became active in acolytes and EYC. We attended camp at Vade Mecum, when the cost was paid by someone from St. Paul's. I have never confirmed who did that.

I trace this relationship back to the time that a St. Paul's member told Rev. Fraser about a new family on Spring Street.

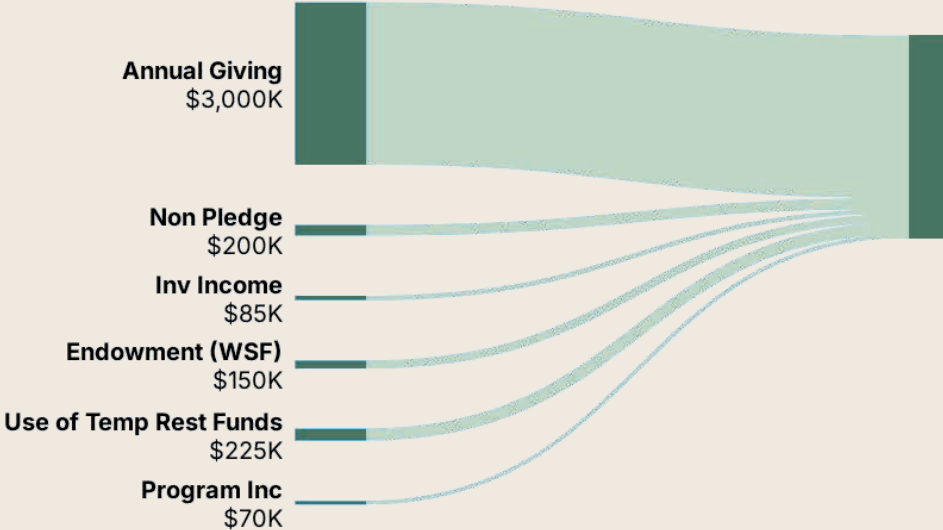
*1 Peter 4:10 encourages the gift of charity and the use of the gift of hospitality.* In 1952, people at St. Paul's lived these gifts toward people who had recently arrived in Winston-Salem, knowing few others. St. Paul's opened its arms, its doors, and its activities to relative strangers.

St. Paul's continues to be a place open to others, while being a place of peace for its members as they are born, schooled, baptized, confirmed, married, ministered to, comforted, buried, and lovingly remembered.

St. Paul's does all that through its abundant use of the gifts of charity and hospitality, while it lives out Christ's call that we love one another.

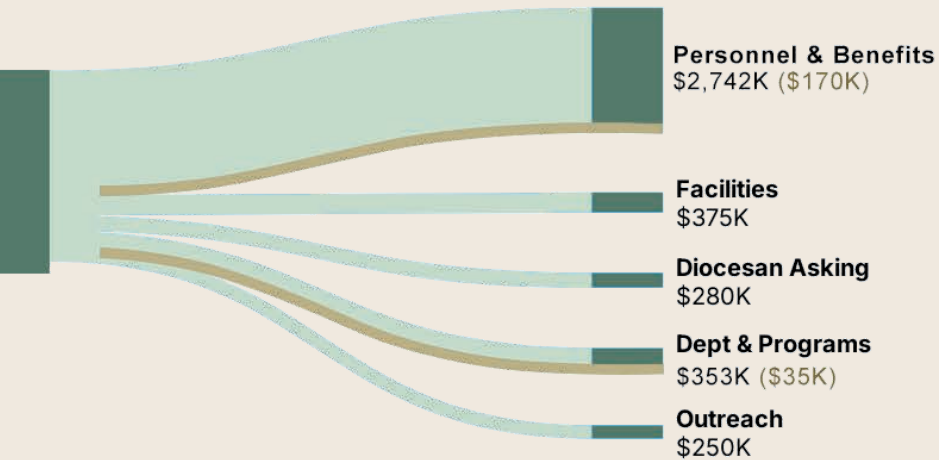
# 2026 Income = \$3,730,000

Income \$3,730K



# Expenses

Expenses \$3,730K



## FOOTNOTES

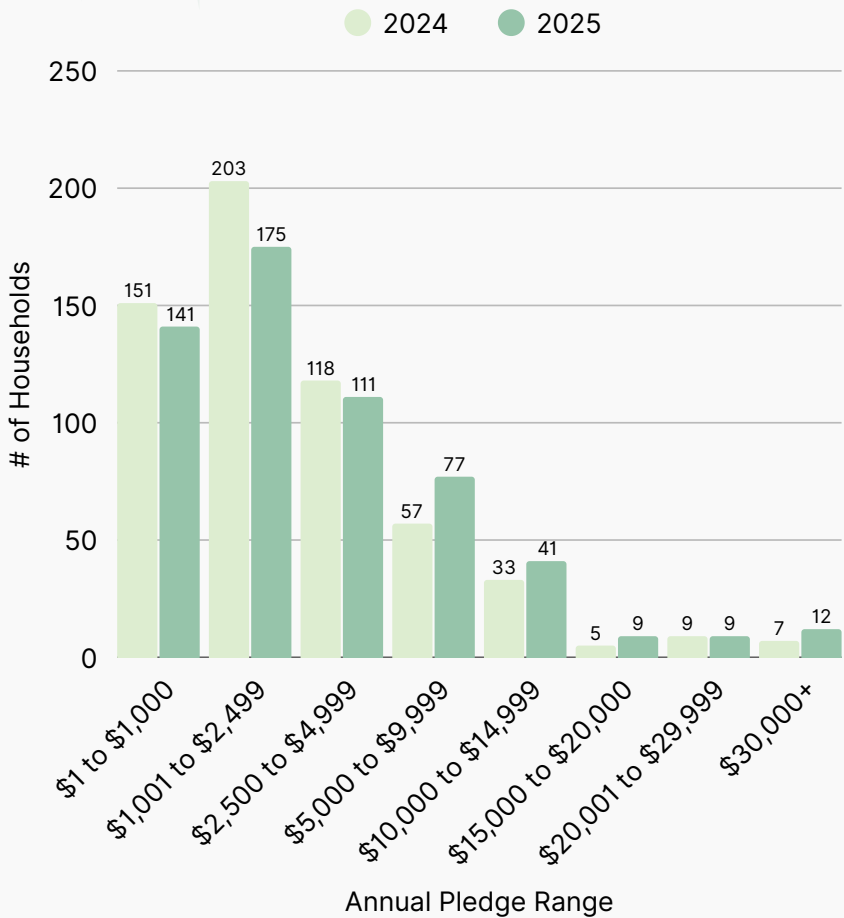
1. **Facilities, Programs and Outreach:** Expenditures shown above do not include any allocation for *Personnel and Benefits* expenditures to each of these spending categories.
2. **The Diocesan Ask:** We are an Episcopal Church and part of the Episcopal Diocese and therefore provide support for the Episcopal Church because their work aligns with our beliefs more than any other religious or Christian subgroup. The Diocesan Asking goes to many state and national (via the US Episcopal Church) needs that one church cannot support. We (SP) are one of the largest and most successful churches in the NC Episcopal Diocese and are fortunate to be able to support the Episcopal Church and its aligning efforts in such a significant way. Many, many people not just within our parish but throughout NC and beyond are better off today because we (SP) can share our blessings through the Diocesan Asking.
3. **Staff Growth in 2026:** The numbers in gold under *Personnel and Benefits* and *Dept. and Programs* reflect the specific growth outlined in the Rector's letter.



# Walking with St. Paul's

One of the things you have communicated to us over and over is that it is helpful when we are specific about the church's stewardship needs. That includes being particular about what we do with the gifts we receive and what kind of gifts we need. One way to discern what is right for you is to consider what it means to take your next step in your walk with St. Paul's. This may be pledging for the first time instead of just giving. It could mean increasing your pledge (by request, we've included a graph for guidance). You may choose to make St. Paul's your top philanthropic priority. Please pray about what is right for you this year and thanks for walking with us!

– The Rev. Dr. Dixon D. Kinser





# Pledging Financial Support

Each fall, St. Paul's asks every parishioner to make a financial commitment to support the ongoing ministries of the church for the coming year. If you are new to the church or about to make your first-ever pledge, we hope these questions and answers will be helpful.

**WHAT IS PLEDGING?** Pledging is your heartfelt, faithful spiritual practice to financially support the ministries and programs of St. Paul's for the coming year. It is a personal example of gratitude that you have for all our God has given to you and your family.

**WHY NOT SIMPLY MAKE NON-PLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS?** Pledges provide the Vestry with an estimate of expected income essential to the preparation of the church's annual budget. St. Paul's simply cannot operate and thrive without a reasonable estimate of its financial resources. Your pledge reinforces the importance of God and St. Paul's in your life. St. Paul's does not include non-pledge contributions of the previous year in the budget preparations or the approaching year. When non-pledge contributions are received, they are used to supplement the budget for the current year.

**HOW MUCH SHOULD I PLEDGE?** Your pledge is a personal decision between God, you and your family. It should be grounded in your faith, love and commitment to God's work through St. Paul's. It requires reflection, prayer, and priority.

**IS MY PLEDGE CONFIDENTIAL?** Yes. Pledges are kept confidential.

**HOW DO I SUBMIT MY PLEDGE?** You can mail in the pledge card included or go to the St. Paul's website and click on stewardship. There is an option to submit your pledge online.







### HOW CAN I PAY MY PLEDGE?

- **Cash or Check (no fees)** Include name and 2026 Pledge in memo line.
- **Bank Draft (no fees)** Provide a voided check with your pledge card. The payment is drafted by the office near the 20th of the month.
- **Credit Card Draft (lowest fees)** The Finance Manager processes these near the 20th of the month. Please submit your credit card information on a pledge card or contact the Director of Stewardship with this information..
- **Donor Advised Funds, Stocks, and IRA Contributions:** We are happy to work with your advisors and bank representatives. Please let the Director of Stewardship know if you are utilizing this option. We have had gifts come in the past without parishioners' names on them and would like to be good stewards of your gifts as they are received and intended to be used.

**DO YOU ACCEPT PRE-PAYMENTS FOR NEXT YEAR'S PLEDGE?** Yes. We are glad to accept pre-payments. Please let us know on your pledge card that you plan to pay your 2026 pledge in advance. If you wish to prepay your 2026 pledge on or before December 31st, 2026, please note on the memo line of a check.

**WHAT IF I NEED TO UPDATE AND CHANGE MY PLEDGE AMOUNT?** We understand that life's circumstances do change, often unexpectedly. Contact Victoria Bass to have your pledge amount adjusted at any time during the year.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE?** Contact the Director of Stewardship, at 336-723-4391, ext. 1210, or [vbass@stpauls-ws.org](mailto:vbass@stpauls-ws.org). Council available upon request.





Each of you should use  
whatever gift you have  
received to serve others, as  
faithful **stewards of God's  
grace** in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)



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