

Wardens Update

Hello my Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this note finds you all well. After last week's All Parish meeting, Rhoda and I reflected on how we could improve our communication within the parish. Our idea is to include a "Warden's Notes" section weekly in the Epistle. In this section we plan to share recent and upcoming events, as well as our thoughts, hopes and prayers for our parish.

All Parish Meeting

Thank you to all who attended; the feedback and discussion were outstanding. We had some updates on Place and Priest (see below) though the main focus was a kickoff to our stewardship campaign, *Inspired by the Spirit*.

Stewardship - Inspired by the Spirit: We are so grateful for the spiritual and financial support from St Paul's Members offered up in prayer in 2018: Thank You!

We invite all our Brothers and Sisters to reflect on how special St. Paul's is in your life and in the lives of others. What spiritual nourishment and what blessings have our parish brought you, the community and the world in 2018?

2018 will be a pivotal year. We want to increase our witness and ministry. We will be bringing on a new priest to accompany us on our journey and we will take the next step in deciding on our church home.

We did a budget review: 2018 annualized and a preliminary 2019.

Budget 2018: The good news in 2018 is that our Investment Committee did an outstanding job, and we are projecting \$50,000 in investment income (from investing the property sales proceeds).

Our pledges hit a low point in 2017 and have rebounded in 2018, with an average annual pledge of \$4,376 across 47 pledges.

Budget 2019: For 2019, your vestry has discussed the need to keep most spending flat, increase our clergy salary line items by ~20%, and increase our Diocesan contribution to 10% (from 7.5% in 2018). We do not assume that in 2019 we will get the same return on our investment of property sale income, so we decreased this item in our budget by 20%. This would leave us a deficit of ~ \$52,000. At this level, we would need an increase of ~21% in pledging from each of us or 21% more pledges. May the God of surprises bless us as we continue to open our hearts to all the possibilities God may have for us as we approach this concern.

Place: Trinity has been gracious enough to extend our lease by 2 years with no increase in cost. The extension does include a request to update TLC in one year concerning whether we remain with them permanently. We have kicked off a new Place Committee lead by Chris Schraeder. This committee already has enough members (sorry I misspoke at the Parish Meeting concerning the need for volunteers). The Place Committee is putting together the various opportunities for St Paul's place and then will be collecting data on our different opportunities. Once the place committee has done their initial work, we will have focus groups to collect the community's input. The focus groups will be extremely important to help the vestry make an informed decision when the time comes. In addition, we all have an important role in holding St Paul's in our prayers and seeking God's intention for our future together as a parish.

Priest: Your vestry has been preparing for interviews with potential priest-in-charge candidates as we approach the period when we will be utilizing supply priests. Though we hope to get some candidates from the Bishop's office, they are very busy preparing for the transition to Bishop Kym. We will be well cared for pastorally in the interim and have confirmed supply priests for nearly every Sunday through March. If you have issues or questions or need anything at all, please talk to Susan (970-482-2668) or your Wardens. We also see this time between Deacon Jim and Rev Lyn's departure as a time for the parish to share their gifts through sermons. If you feel God's intention for you to share, please contact us and we can talk about a Sunday for you to share with St. Paul's

Up-Coming Events

We will continue to keep you informed. Here is our calendar for the next couple of weeks.

- Nov 20: Vestry Meeting, 7 pm
- Dec 2: Deacon Jim's Send Off
- Dec 9: Inspired by the Spirit In-Gathering
- Dec 16: Reverend Lyn's Send Off
- Dec 18: Vestry Meeting
- Jan 27: Annual Meeting

Reflection

As we enter another season of transitions it can bring up many emotions, including one of the most destructive: fear. Though uncertainty on Purpose, Priest and Place is not new to our parish, it may cause anxiety about St Paul's future. When concern rises for me, I offer up my concerns to God and seek out truths around me. For example, we have a caring and thoughtful vestry, seeking God and caring for our parish. If you have any concerns coming from unclear or rumored information: every vestry member would gladly listen. And all parishioners are welcome to come to a vestry meeting. Another example, we have found a wonderful partner in Trinity Lutheran Church, and they are interested in us staying with them. Also, we have a special purpose that others feel and that is evident in the new faces we are seeing at our services. I am certain, our priest in charge is out there preparing for their call to St Paul's, whether known or unknown to them. And the great truth for me is though I do not know for certain what the future holds for St Paul's, I will be there with all of you, carrying out God's work for us. God loves us, walks the way with us, and can carry our burden if we ask.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:6-7 (NRSV)

In this week of Thanksgiving, I am most thankful for our parish home: St Paul's

Wishing you God's Blessing and a Happy Thanksgiving,
Rhoda and John, Your Wardens