

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

October 28, 2020

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is so much I'd like to say to each of you! But in “Covidtide,” an email or a letter must suffice, and in the end, perhaps it will be good enough. I am writing to ask for your pledge of support, and especially financial support, for St. Paul's for 2021. Your Vestry is especially hard at work right now to establish a budget that is responsive to our need for living within our means (pledged support) and to financial transparency in reporting to all of you (not just the vestry) in the months ahead.

Toward that end, I'd like to ask you to prayerfully consider what you'd miss if the Episcopal Congregation of St. Paul, DeKalb, no longer existed. I know this might be a tough exercise now as we've lost so much of the vitality of “in person” contact through the sacraments of Holy Communion and “Holy Coffee Hour” that we enjoyed *just last year*. For now, circumstances are inviting us to adapt our gatherings to help keep one another and our families as safe as possible from the virus. So, where we once loved one another by gathering, we now love one another by keeping some distance---at the same time maintaining our heart-connection with one another as members of the Body of Christ at St. Paul's parish. What would be lost to you if St. Paul's ceased to exist as a parish?

Some of you have just recently joined us. Welcome! Thank you for seeing and hearing us with the eyes and ears of your hearts. I'm also asking you to consider supporting our endeavor together with a pledge for next year.

The amount pledged is not as important as one's personal pledge to be with us. A dollar a month would serve in that capacity. St. Paul's is a unique presence among the many Christian churches in our area. What might we may be doing in five or ten years from now? God has plans for us! Just imagine where we might be five or ten years from now with an expanded community garden ministry, resumed Taize-style services and our beautiful music program!

Faithfully,

Barbara+

(The Rev.) Barbara A.T. Wilson, MDiv, MA, BCC
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