

# Dear Saint Paul's,

We come again to our annual appeal for your discernment and generosity. Our stewardship committee has been truly remarkable in their dedication and thoughtfulness in crafting this year's campaign. I hope it will stir your soul the way it has mine.

This year's theme, Rooted in Enough, draws us to reflect on the great truth that, as one of our Eucharistic prayers says, we are worthy to stand before God. In Christ Jesus, we are given all we need to live faithful, meaningful lives. We cannot earn more favor, more blessing, or more value in the eyes of God – you and I each already possess all there is, simply by being. When we can begin there, rooted in God's abundance and generosity, believing that we have been given all we need to thrive, we have the opportunity to take on a posture of praise and thanksgiving.

This gratitude is at the heart of true stewardship – the care and responsibility we have to use effectively the resources and blessings we have been given. You and I are each entrusted with these resources and gifts, both tangible and intangible, to be used not just for our own benefit, but for the benefit and care of the entire community. Saint Paul's has been richly blessed to worship God

and serve God's people for many generations. It is a community that has been truly rooted and built up in Christ, sharing God's love and abundance with one another and the wider community for 160 years.

Now it is our turn. Just as those who came before us, we have been entrusted with the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. We have been entrusted with the love and nurture of our beautiful Saint Paul's, which lives and thrives only through the bounty and grace of God in Christ Jesus. And we have been given, in this year's stewardship campaign, an opportunity to reflect upon the many ways our lives have been enriched and blessed by God's Spirit and provision.

God's provision is abundant. We have, indeed, been entrusted with precious resources bestowed upon by a gracious and generous Creator. These resources extend far beyond material wealth; they encompass our time, our talents and knowledge, and, most importantly, the love and compassion we share with others. But it begins with knowing that we *are* enough and that we *have* enough – enough love, enough grace, enough wisdom, enough wealth, enough redemption not only for ourselves, but for all those around us.

This year, please pray and ask God about how you are being invited to share your abundance with your church home, so that Saint Paul's might continue to spread God's blessings and love within and beyond our community. In this packet you'll find more information about the mission and ministry of Saint Paul's, see examples of our vibrant community and worship life, and discover the many ways that generations of generosity have impacted our current realities.

We abound in thanksgiving, as Colossians says, because we can be confident that we have been given everything we need to thrive. And I abound in thanksgiving for you, because you are among us, enriching us and blessing our church community with your presence.

You are enough,



Samantha R. E. Smith  
Rector



## WHY DO YOU YOU GIVE TO SAINT PAUL'S?

On that very first visit, sure enough, I felt right at home. I loved the ritual, I loved the beautiful worship space, but mostly it was the people that did it for me. There is something fundamentally good going on here at Saint Paul's, and I'm just happy to be a part of it.

**Glenda Goehrs**

Saint Paul's is our second home and you have to take care of your home. It's not okay not to be a part of taking care of your home, your spiritual home, your physical home, your intellectual home, and home to our friends. Our greatest joy has been coordinating the Mission Waco Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless. We have people on the team of every age - many who grew up serving dinner to the homeless and who are still participating 20 years later. We are called to care for our community and providing Thanksgiving dinner is one way we do it at Saint Paul's.

**Jim and Cindy SoRelle**

An analogy occurred to me because I think of Saint Paul's in some ways as an emotional, intellectual, and spiritual charging station. And just like a phone, you've got to plug it in in order for it to work. And so the more I give, the more I've participated at Saint Paul's, it seems like the more the energy, the charge is built up.

**Heyward Green**

I suppose one of the blessings of growing older is that you have so many wonderful memories. That's true of me in terms of Saint Paul's. Saint Paul's has a rich, wonderful history, but I'm even more excited about its future, and I look forward to going there with you.

**Elizabeth Smith**

My chosen family is Saint Paul's. I love all the ministries at Saint Paul's. Anything I can get involved in, I enjoy doing it. Anytime I'm with Saint Paul's – my family – I'm a happy person.

**Carl Ballew**





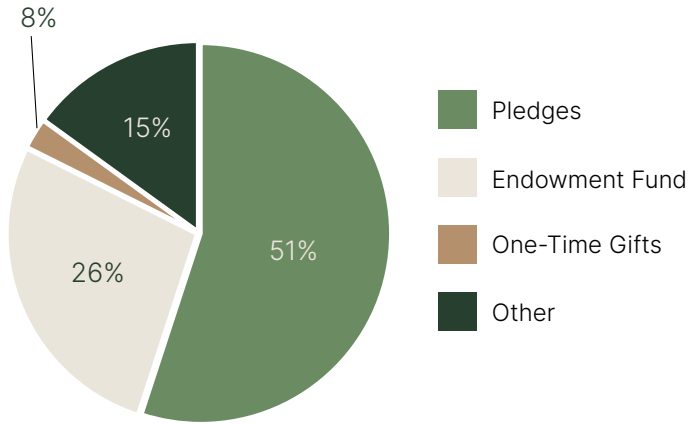
# Where does our income come from?

## Pledges

Pledge income is made up of all payments made toward a recorded pledge to the church in the calendar year. Saint Paul's goal in 2024 is 100% participation from participating families. No gift is too big or too small.

## Endowment Fund

The Saint Paul's Parish Endowment is governed by an endowment board elected by the vestry. The current automatic annual distribution equation is 3.5% of a 3 year rolling average of income.



\*This graph is based on budget information from 2022.

## One-Time Gifts

One-Time Gifts includes undesignated plate offerings, one-time online gifts, and other independent, undesignated giving throughout the year.

## Other

Other Income includes school maintenance reimbursements, the lease of the Jefferson plot, Amazon Smile benefits, annual income from the Badger and Genovese Trusts, and interest income from our accounts.



# Where does our income go?

## Worship

In the last year, we've increased worship attendance by 10% and baptized 9 children. We have also reinvigorated our music ministry with a new choir director, increased choir participation, and introduced beautiful and diverse music offerings. We hosted a theologian-in-residence for Holy Week, started a successful community worship and fellowship program through Holy Hikes, and led worship monthly at The Delaney for any resident wanting to join us.

## Formation

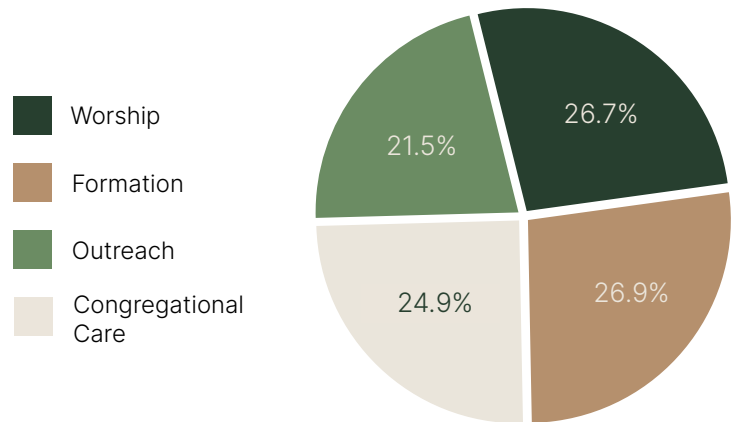
We've improved our Christian Education across all age groups this year, increasing both availability and attendance. Some of the highlights include a new initiative just for 5th and 6th graders and our weekly offerings of bible study, contemplative prayer, and Benedictine spirituality. Our fall Sunday adult series blends expert teaching in a podcast format with real-time, in-person conversation and connection to deepen our understanding of the Scriptures.

## Outreach

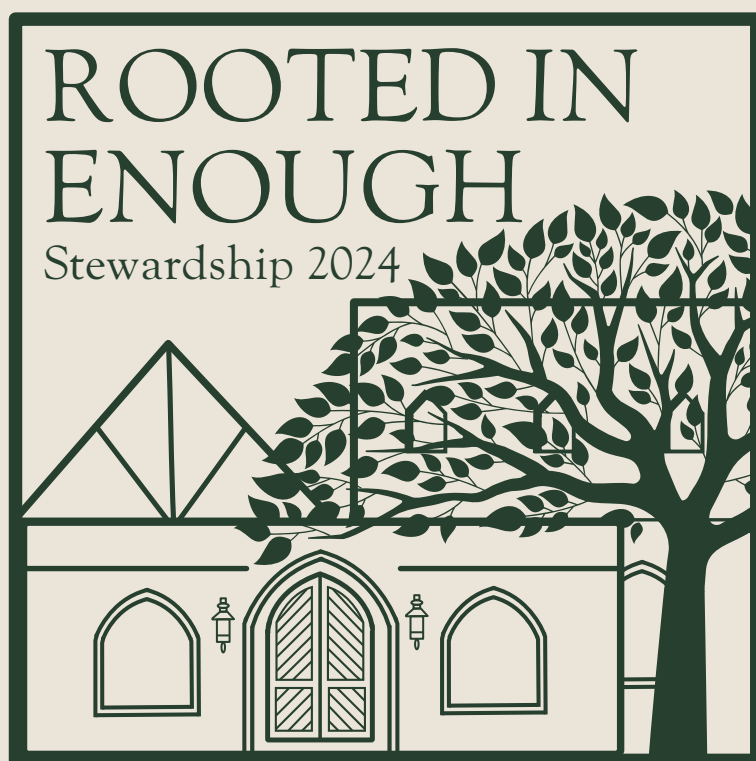
This year alone, our congregation has supported 10 different local organizations, as well as families within our church and school and beyond. Through donations of both finances and time we fulfilled their needs and we fulfilled our own need to reach out to our wider community with love and support. We also gathered over 70 people together one evening to pack enough food for 21,000 meals for children and families in need through Kids Against Hunger, a ministry that serves communities all over the world.

## Congregational Care

Congregational Care consists of both fellowship and our pastoral care efforts. Each week, our altar guild rearranges our altar flowers into smaller vases and pairs them with notes made by our Saint Paul's School students to deliver to those who are ill, home-bound, or celebrating a milestone like a birthday, new baby, or anniversary. We enjoy time together and strengthen our community bonds at events like our Parish Picnic, Trunk or Treat, Blessing of the Animals, and Rally Day. And we made dozens of home visits, hospital calls, and notes in the mail to help our parish feel connected and cared for. We look forward to launching new initiatives in 2024 to foster more connection and care within our parish family.



\*This graph is based on budget information from 2022.



Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

*"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." Colossians 2:6-7*