

Dear Saint Paul's,

As we approach this season of reflection and giving, we are reminded of the countless ways the Saint Paul's community embodies this year's theme: "Stories of Light." Each of us carries a unique story of faith, hope, and love that illuminates the path for others.

Since 1863, Saint Paul's unwavering support and generosity has shone brightly, providing much-needed light and guidance. Whether it has been through our outreach programs, community events, or simply being there for one another, we see the light of Christ reflected in each individual's actions. When these actions are combined, our congregation's impact is amplified even further.

We are delighted to share some of these inspiring stories of light throughout the stewardship season, as they exemplify how God's generosity inspires our community to faithfully give back. We hope you will see how a willingness to be generous allows us to use our blessings as a blessing to others.

As we reflect on our past and look to the future, we are excited and hopeful about the possibilities for Saint Paul's – opportunities for building community, outreach, and ministry. The Vestry is anticipating great things at Saint Paul's in the coming years and is proposing an ambitious budget to ensure healthy growth for our parish.

We invite you to join this ongoing journey. Enclosed, you will find a pledge card for the 2025 stewardship campaign. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can support our mission and create a steadfast source of light for Saint Paul's and the Waco community. Your contribution will significantly expand our ministries and offer more ways for us to serve one another.

Thank you for being a beacon of light in our community. Together, we can continue to illuminate the path for others and shine brightly in the name of God.

With gratitude and blessings,

The Stewardship Committee

Felicia Goodman, Chair

Jenny Peel

Katherine Carpenter

Sarah Kathryn Ricci

Will Carpenter

Laura Swann

Steve Dow

The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith, Rector, ex officio

Sarah Martin, Dir. Communications & Membership, ex officio

REFLECTING ON OUR IMPACT

This year, Saint Paul's budget fueled church growth, enriched formation experiences, and amplified community outreach, showcasing our congregation's expanding footprint.

Contributed
2,340 volunteer hours
to support Sunday programming.

 Covered
270+ miles
collectively in the first year of Holy Hikes, our Eucharistic service in nature.



Administered Eucharist to
9,450 attendees
across 214 services.



Offered nearly
230 hours
of formation opportunities
across all ages.

Prepared
20,500 meals
for Saint Paul's Against Hunger and served
329 pounds of canned food
and **600 rolls**
at Mission Waco Thanksgiving.

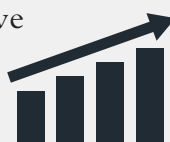


Celebrated
26
baptisms,
confirmations, and
weddings in 2023.

Grew worship annually, placing
our Sunday attendance in the
TOP 7%
of Episcopal Churches.

Supported over
100 teachers and students
in Waco by providing Christmas gifts to Waco High teachers and donating coats, graduation gifts, and hygiene products to students at The Cove.

Increased SPES enrollment
for the fifth consecutive
year, marking a
23% growth.



Grew percentage of
Episcopal students at
SPES to
double
the regional average.

With close to 55% of the budget funded by annual pledges and gifts, we have achieved remarkable progress and deepened our influence both within and beyond our parish.

Our income

Pledges

Pledge income is from members who have signed a pledge card and then make payments toward that pledge. We receive a majority of our income from pledges and it is also the most variable portion of our income. Increasing the overall amount pledged is the best way to increase our budget.

One-Time Gifts

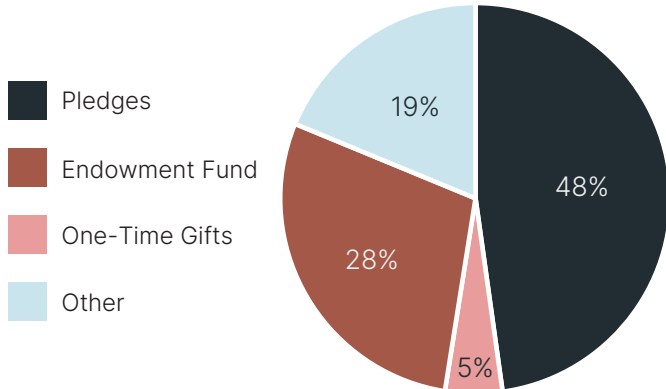
One-Time Gifts include undesignated plate offerings, one-time online gifts, and other independent, undesignated giving throughout the year.

Endowment Fund

The Saint Paul's Parish Endowment was established in 1932 to increase the financial sustainability of the church. Each year, we are able to take an annual distribution equal to 3.5% of the three year average of the value of the fund. This distribution allows us to fund a portion of our operating budget while leaving a majority of the endowment to continue growing in investments.

Other

Our other income includes school maintenance reimbursements, the lease of the Jefferson plot, annual income from the Badger and Genovese Trusts, and interest income from our accounts.



Our expenses

Worship

Worship is at the heart of our community, and we always strive to create services where we can gather to worship and celebrate the Holy Sacraments together.

Formation

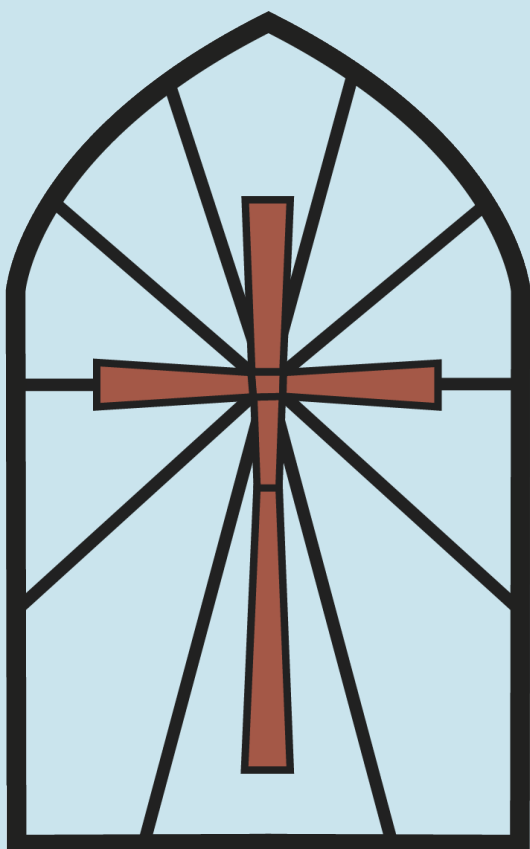
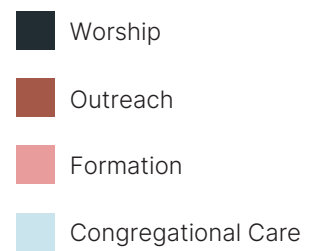
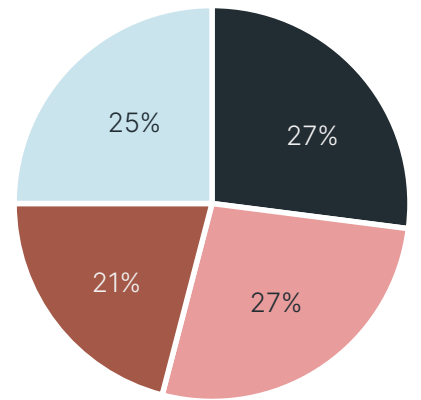
Formation is central to our mission of fostering spiritual growth and curiosity. Through Sunday school classes, special formation series, and regular formation groups, we hope to encourage a lifelong journey of learning.

Outreach

Supporting our community has been a longstanding value at Saint Paul's. Through donation drives, Mission Waco Thanksgiving, volunteering in the community, and pastoral outreach, we are able to make important positive impacts for our mission partners and the wider community.

Congregational Care

Part of our mission is to foster lifelong community in our congregation. We want every member to feel supported by the church and their neighbors, no matter their age. To help support this mission, we make pastoral care visits and support community-building efforts like parish breakfasts, retreats, and Faith and Families.



STORIES *of* LIGHT

Saint Paul's Stewardship 2025