

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 2023 STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY REPORT

Stewardship Ministry - Introduction

The Stewardship Committee, formed in May of 2020, continues the work of recognizing, caring for, and sharing the abundant gifts that God has given to each person and to the parish community. Since it's organization, the committee has committed to growing and learning together about how best to open doors, welcome neighbors, share gifts, and build community. That work is supported through our ongoing use and sharing of resources and training from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS), The Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF), and Partners for Sacred Places (PSP).

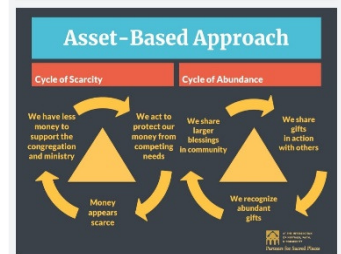
Committee Meetings

Every meeting of the committee opens and closes with prayer, and the Standing Agenda always includes:

1. Prayers for the priest, vestry, and each parish ministry or committee!
2. Where are we being good stewards?
3. Where do we see generosity at work?
4. What gifts do we have to celebrate?
5. A Scripture lesson from the Lectionary, and discussion questions:
 - a. What do you hear in this reading that speaks about stewardship?
 - b. How do we proclaim the Kingdom of God in what we say and do?
6. Each meeting also includes discussion and planning related to old business, new business, and plans for upcoming tasks or projects.
7. Closing Prayer

Asset-Based Approach

The work of the group continues to be guided by "Asset-Based Approach" and the hope help the parish to *recognize the abundant gifts we've been given, share larger blessings in community, and share our gifts in action with others.*



Graphic by Partners for Sacred Places

Ministry Priorities

Recognizing the three primary elements of our 'year-round' stewardship program, the work of the ministry continues to include an Annual Pledge Campaign, Planned Giving, and a future Capital Campaign. We again hope to develop/enhance our Planned Giving program and prioritize that effort during the upcoming year. In addition, ongoing visioning work with Partners for Sacred Places, may well help us to consider the needs and opportunities associated with any future capital campaign.

The Pledge Campaign

Father Don announced the official kick-off during a regular Sunday service in August and followed up with a letter to the parish, and a 'Special Edition' of 'The Epistle' parish newsletter. 'Prayers of the People' were written for each of the 10 weeks between our kick-off and Advent, and 'More Than Enough' reflections from TENS were used to support the effort. The most recent "More Than Enough" pledge campaign concluded with the 'Blessing of the Pledges' on Sunday January 22, 2022.

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Blessing of the Pledges

On Sunday, 22 January 2023, Father Don will give thanks and ask God's blessing of the pledges of financial support intentions to support the church and community on other ways. In summary, the total number of returned pledge cards is 43, three fewer than last year, and the number of dollars pledged for 2023 is \$141,126. We are likely to continue to receive pledges for the next several weeks, and the actual final numbers will be included in our Annual Parochial Report. We are grateful for the generosity of the members of St. Paul's.

FOUR YEAR DATA	2023*	2022	2021	2020	2019
PLEDGE TOTALS	\$141,126	\$170,150	\$174,800	\$153,356	\$180,492
PLEDGE CARDS RETURNED	43	46	55	54	57

*As of January 9, 2023.

Next Steps

We plan to again rely on TENS materials to support our next pledge campaign, and we are using materials from the Episcopal Church Foundation as a basis for our planned giving efforts. We hope to prioritize our Planned Giving work this year, including Parish-wide education and informational sessions.

The committee is also hoping to bring on new members and leaders as we look forward to the upcoming season. If you or someone you know would like additional information about serving on this committee, please contact any of the members listed below.

2022 Ministry Members

Walt Peake, David Taylor, Susumu Inoue, Tim Grant, Joel Arnold, Edythe Peake

