



## Stewardship Committee - Vestry Report April 26, 2023



### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Stewardship Committee continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month, with the current membership including: Susumu Inoue, Tim Grant, David Taylor, Barbara Mannor, Edythe Peake, Walt Peake. We are grateful for the time and effort of current members, and continue to look for additional folks who may be interested in joining the effort.

We continue our work of implementing a 'year-round' program of stewardship, centered on recognizing and sharing our abundant gifts in community. The work is guided by professional resources, developed by The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS), and the Episcopal Church Foundation.

Our group has already started preparing for our fall pledge campaign using the TENS timeline and materials, branded this year with the tag line 'Rooted in Abundance'. The related scripture passage this year is Jeremiah 17:7-8; *(7) Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose confidence is in Him. (8) They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.*

Watch for Seasonal Reflections throughout the year, available as bulletin inserts and handouts at the Welcome Center.

### STEWARDSHIP MEETING SUMMARY – APRIL 12, 2023

1. As always, the April meeting opened with prayers for each of the parish ministries, committees, priest, and vestry. (See Attached.)
2. 2023 TENS Pledge Campaign Timeline Review (See Attached) and related Recommendations:
  - a. Setting Goals: Historically, our pledge goals have been tied primarily to covering a percentage of the budget. Our hope is to expand the process to reflect aspirational goals more closely tied to specific missions and ministries. This relationship will support the development of a more compelling 'Case for Giving/Narrative Budget' for our upcoming campaign.
  - b. The committee recommends that we expand our use of electronic giving opportunities, and consider purchasing additional services from Tithe.ly in support of this year's campaign. The committee would also like to schedule technical support opportunities for parishioners to learn about using new electronic giving tools.
  - c. Use of materials for theological formation ( TENS Seasonal/Weekly Reflections)
3. Planned Giving
  - a. Edythe has been in contact with Amy Krug, Development Director of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint (CFGF). Amy is a friend of St. Paul's and has assisted us in our work with Partners. Our hope is to schedule Amy to visit for a Planned Giving



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'learning session' to take place during a Sunday Coffee Hour this spring. Watch for updates.

- b. Barb is working to schedule a second Planned Giving 'learning session' with a representative from the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF)

#### 4. Sharing Gifts in Community

- a. We have had a number of suggestions and requests to conduct a 'Ministry Fair' during an upcoming coffee hour. Our materials from Partners teach us that the Cycle of Abundance relies on our ability to "Recognize abundant gifts". Our hope is to look to the gifts we've been given, 'Share larger gifts in community', and 'Share Gifts in action with others'.
- b. Blood Drive – Susumu is coordinating the work of sponsoring a St. Paul's/Downtown Blood Drive with the American Red Cross for Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>. We will share the information with our downtown neighbors via Facebook.

#### 5. Our Case for Giving – Elevator Speech

- a. The committee discussed the question, 'What would you say if someone asked you about our ministry in the communities we serve?' In days gone by, we typically pointed to our Tuesday Lunch program in addition to our other ongoing efforts. The group discussed the need to be able to easily answer the question today. The conversation led us to the need to highlight our commitment and support of key ministry partners such as Crossover and Family Promise.
- b. We also discussed the value in seeking opportunities to support and collaborate with other entities and organizations with similar mission and ministry priorities, and ensure that our members can find ways to share abundant gifts throughout the community through financial and/or volunteer support of food programs, social justice initiatives, housing services, or any of a variety of other entities. It was suggested that we consider developing some sort of coordinated 'Community Engagement/Volunteer Recruitment committee/function to help match our gifts with community needs and expectations.

6. Closing reflection on Jeremiah 17:7-8. "What do you hear in this reading?", "How do we proclaim the Kingdom of God in what we say and do?"

7. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

8. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 5:30PM

**Respectfully Submitted: Walter A. Peake, April 20, 2023**