



Stewardship Committee - Vestry Report

May 24, 2023



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.

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.

STEWARDSHIP MEETING SUMMARY – MAY 10, 2023 (RESCHEDULED)

1. As always, the meeting opened with prayers for each of the parish ministries, committees, priest, and vestry.
2. The 2023 Pledge Campaign will kick off on September 19th and run through November 26th. Throughout the campaign season, we will share weekly reflections from TENS as bulletin inserts. We are asking that each ministry/committee prepare to offer a reflection (or perhaps even a sermon) from the lectern during worship sometime during the season.
3. Case for Giving/Ministry Narrative: The Stewardship committee is asking for help from each of the respective ministries and committees.
 - a. Each year, the finance committee asks us to prepare ministry and committee budgets, a seemingly routine process of checking last year's numbers and thinking about whether there is any need to change things.
 - b. Each year, the Stewardship committee struggles to prepare a compelling narrative about how pledges and gifts directly support the good works of each ministry/committee.
 - c. Each year, our pledge goal is determined largely by what gap we need to fill rather than by what ministry needs/goals we aspire to meet.
 - d. This year, we are asking for each ministry committee to prepare a brief statement about their work and aspirations. Considering these four questions: What is our role in the parish/community? What do we do/hope to accomplish? Why is our work important? How much does it cost to fulfill our mission? In essence, we hope to be able to help folks understand the impact and outcomes of their generosity. What would you say if someone asked you about our ministry in the communities we serve?
 - e. We hope to use this information as we prepare our pledge materials and pledge letters to the parish.
4. We continue to explore the use of 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.



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5. Planned Giving: 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 'learning session' to take place during a Sunday Coffee Hour this spring. Watch for updates. Barb is working to schedule a second Planned Giving 'learning session' with a representative from the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF)
6. Sharing Gifts in Community
 - a. We have initiated discussions about sponsoring a 'Ministry Fair' sometime in September. It might be helpful if each ministry/committee group could begin thinking about how they'd like to present their respective groups during this coffee hour opportunity.
 - b. Blood Drive – Our Blood Drive is this Friday! Please tell your friends and 'share' the event. Information on how to register is available on our Facebook page.
 - c. The committee continued our conversations regarding leveraging some of the community partnerships and relationships developed during our 150th season. Our hope is to identify and communicate new community volunteer opportunities in order to help us 'share gifts' beyond our four walls through financial and/or volunteer support of food programs, social justice initiatives, housing services, or any of a variety of other entities.
7. Closing reflection: "What do you hear in this reading?", "How do we proclaim the Kingdom of God in what we say and do?"
8. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.
9. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 5:30PM

Respectfully Submitted: Walter A. Peake, May 23, 2023