

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2011 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN



WHAT PRAYERS HAVE BEEN
ANSWERED?



WHAT ARE YOU
GRATEFUL FOR?



LET US WITH GLADNESS PRESENT THE OFFERINGS AND OBLATIONS OF OUR LIFE AND LABOR TO THE LORD

Many of you may be familiar with the doxology: “Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.” God created everything that exists, including each of us. And therefore everything that exists belongs to God — humanity included. All that we are and all that we have has been granted us through God’s infinite love and grace. It is our responsibility to administer these bounteous gifts in a godly manner. We have been given enough to take care of ourselves, yet because of our wasteful practices we never seem to have enough. Out of our great abundance we are called to be more ready to give than to receive.

In its rich history, St. Paul’s has been a congregation that cares for those in need among and beyond those who assemble for worship. At the same time, this has been a place where faithful worship to God has been practiced. As we prepare to enter the year 2011 (which is in fact our 100th year at this location) we must increase our efforts and dedication to both worship God and to show love to our neighbors — as we also seek to prepare the way for future generations to bear witness.

I ask that you join with me and the leadership of the Parish in making a commitment to support the life and ministry we share in this place by being generous with your God-given talents, your precious time and the fruit of your labor. Let us give with joyful hearts, not as a show of pride, but as an expression of gratitude for the blessings bestowed upon us by God.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Mauricio+

FROM THE RECTOR

PRAISE GOD

FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

All our blessings flow from God's grace. In response, we reach out to share God's grace with one another. We are called to increase our sharing and giving — individually, with our families and friends, and as a parish. When we really think deeply about the source of all that we have, it helps us to respond to this call.

The Stewardship Committee invites you to reflect on sources of joy and thanksgiving in your life. Times are challenging, and yet in the challenges we can find blessings. Have you noticed something you are grateful for this year that may have surprised you? What gifts have you received? We may even realize how much we ourselves have to offer — a hand, a kind word, information shared, and the fruits of our labor and skill.

We give thanks that St. Paul's members continue to fulfill their pledged commitments, and seek to be good stewards of our community and of creation. St. Paul's is looking ahead to ways in which our parish can do more to reach out and share God's blessings. When you stop to reflect how God has blessed you and all of us at St. Paul's, you may understand how we can extend a new challenge to you for the coming year: let your gifts reflect your gratitude!

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

We are asked to work toward the tithe, which is to offer ten percent of “all that we have” (our wealth, talent, gifts and time) to God and those in need. A resolution of the Episcopal General Convention tells us, “The tithe is the minimum standard of giving by Episcopalians for God's work.” The biblical tradition of giving started with Abram who “gave one-tenth of everything” (Gen. 14:20) and continued through Moses, David, Solomon and Job who were expected to return tithes to care for the Temple and the poor. We know there are many ways that you may give to worthy causes or support people

in need, and that each of these may be considered part of your tithe. We hear God's word and Christ's call to follow him in many ways. St. Paul's asks you to consider its ministries and its presence in Oakland, and we hope you will consider supporting this parish by your tithe. Your time, skills and labor are just as important as any financial pledge; consider how the church's ministries can benefit from your unique gifts.



WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO

Pledging is a commitment and a decision we make ahead of time, to promise a proportion of our income to our Christian house of worship. It's a spiritual step but also a concrete one that helps St. Paul's fulfill its mission. Pledging helps the church, specifically the Vestry, plan its yearly budget with confidence. While St. Paul's gratefully receives gifts and bequests, we risk much by relying on these to meet budget deficits and cover our operating expenses. We will not be able to operate sustainably if we do not pledge now, for the future. Please look for financial information about the St. Paul's budget in accompanying literature available in the service leaflets this month, in the church narthex and at www.stpaulsoakland.org.

Here's the good news: If everyone who pledged last year increases their pledge by 20%, we can close the gap and cover what it now costs to operate St. Paul's. This may truly be a test of our parish's commitment to its mission in Oakland and beyond. Here's the goal: to raise our pledges to a total of \$250,000 for 2011.

MAKE A PLEDGE OF YOUR TALENT TO THESE **ST. PAUL'S MINISTRIES**

ALTAR GUILD

prepare our sacred space for worship

ALTAR SERVERS (ACOLYTES & SUB-DEACONS)

support our communal life in Christ at the altar during worship

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

preserve and maintain our church and grounds

CHOIR

enrich our worship through music

COFFEE HOUR

promote fellowship by providing refreshments following the 10 a.m. service

COMMUNICATIONS

spread the good news of Christ, and St. Paul's, throughout the parish

DEANERY/DIOCESAN CONVENTION

be the voice of St. Paul's at the deanery and/or diocesan level

EUCCHARISTIC/PASTORAL VISITORS

bring Communion to and visit with our sick and shut-ins

FAMILY MINISTRY

encourage and enrich our children's spiritual life

FINANCE/INVESTMENT

be good stewards of our parish finances

FOOD CO-OP

ease hunger by offering fresh produce to our community

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

lift spirits by promoting music at St. Paul's

HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY

offer prayers of healing for individuals and the world

INTERCESSORS

ask for the prayers of God's people for the world during worship

KNITTING MINISTRY

knit for the newborn and ill children of local hospitals, and for others

LAY READERS (LECTORS)

proclaim the Word of the Lord during worship

LUNCH SACK MINISTRY

prepare and distribute sack lunches for day laborers and the homeless

MEN OF ST. PAUL'S

be in fellowship with your brothers in Christ as we gather to do God's work

OASIS

be in fellowship as we advocate for the full inclusion of all the baptized in all the sacraments

SENIOR CENTER WITHOUT WALLS

bring companionship to seniors by hosting a class or discussion for shut-ins via the phone

SENIOR RESOURCES

minister to seniors in need

SPONSORS FOR NEWCOMERS

welcome and guide newcomers into parish life

ST. MARY'S CENTER

live our baptismal promise by preparing meals for homeless seniors

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

promote the mutual ministry of St. Paul's church and school

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

encourage our congregation to honor God with all that we have and are

USHERS

be the face of St. Paul's while welcoming people to worship services

VESTRY

live into leadership by serving on the governing board of the parish

WOMEN OF ST. PAUL'S/ECW

be in fellowship with your sisters in Christ as we gather to do God's work

The enclosed 2011 pledge card features
a place for you to make a commitment to
SHARE YOUR UNIQUE GIFTS
with the St. Paul's community



SAVE THE DATES

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

OCTOBER 24

IN-GATHERING SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 7

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