

The Messenger

St. Paul's

A progressive community of faith with ancient roots.



NOVEMBER
2023
Volume 27
Number 3

Stewardship Thoughts by *Marna*

Yesterday I was with a Lutheran pastor who is managing a sizeable budget for their church. In conversation, they stated this: “We have a very large budget for our building and ministry. We also give away 30% of our collected funds every year to the community. What is most stunning is that all of this work is done by pledges that are of everyday size. We have no big donors. It takes a village to do the work that we do, a whole village.”

Every year, when it comes to “Stewardship Season,” I think about the budget of St. Paul’s and how much it costs to maintain the mission of this place. There are many ways to think about giving: giving of time, giving of talent, giving of prayers, giving of faithfulness, and giving of funds.

I can write later about all the other kinds of giving, but today I want to address the giving of funds. Linc and the finance team can back me up on this information but let me tell you what is happening at St. Paul’s. Our current level of giving is sufficient to support all the “ministry” expenses of the church: salaries, worship supplies, missioner fund, diocesan apportionment, etc. To me this is substantial information: we give enough, as a community, to make sure that MINISTRY happens. Well done and thank you, everyone. I hope that we will all continue to give in the way that we do so that ministry can occur.

What our current level of giving does NOT reach far enough to support is our building occupancy expenses. As faithful members of St. Paul’s, it is important for all of us to understand this reality and to put our best minds and hearts to work to solve this puzzle. In addition to giving a little more in our pledges, what other ideas do we have to solve this puzzle of supporting our occupancy expenses?

I am asking this year that everyone who reads this letter will put their imaginations to work on this puzzle. Are there fundraisers among us? Are there folks who can write grants? Can someone help us understand planned giving and estate planning? Are there ideas for community partnerships that we can seek out where we share the building with another entity full-time? Are there ideas for how we can renovate/adjust our spaces so that they are self-supporting? Do we have the courage to be wildly imaginative about creative solutions?

It truly takes a village to BE Church. We are supporting the MINISTRY aspect of BEING church. I believe that the Spirit of God will show us the way forward to support the building and how we occupy it. Thank you again for everyone’s faithfulness and giving. I cannot wait to see what might come our way as we put our minds and hearts to the puzzle I put before you.

God’s peace and my appreciation to all!

Stewardship Rooted in Abundance--

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. - Jeremiah 17:8

I am so pleased this year to talk about the theme of our annual stewardship campaign, Rooted in Abundance. I am particularly excited about it because it describes the grateful state of our church community, and how we share our gifts so lovingly with each other.

Our giving tradition at St. Paul's has always been focused on how we share all of our gifts – not just our financial gifts. A church needs new ideas, creative people to lead, individuals who know how to solve complex problems, and volunteers to keep our ministries focused on our neighbors. We usually talk about this in a three-fold way: wealth, works, and wisdom. If any one of these areas is missing from our community, we are diminished.

Each of us has a gift, some have many. For some it is cooking and baking, others might have beautiful singing voices; we praise those who have an administrative gift of balancing books or counting the collection, we admire those who offer hospitality, who serve at the altar, who help us find a seat as the service begins. Whatever your ministries are, we couldn't be who we are without you.

The committee's letter talked about how trees are connected via their root structures, and how they share information and resources with each other through those underground networks. In this year of being in leadership ministry with you, I have witnessed the ways in which you communicate with each other to get things done. Potlucks, community events, pastoral care, it all happens so wonderfully because you are each deeply connected to each other through your roots of faith and service.

I thank you this year for the ways you have shared your gifts with us – your wealth, works, and your wisdom. In the coming days, we will continue sharing more information and thoughts about this year's campaign. I invite you to find your pledge/promise card and let us know how you would like to share with us for next year's ministry. Thank you for your generosity, once again.

In gratitude,

Kris Mowafy
Senior Warden of the Vestry

2023 Hunger Walk Results

As of October 20, St. Paul's 2023 walking team raised \$1,027. (cash and checks totaled \$887; on-line donations totaled \$140.) for this annual Marquette County effort that raises money to combat world-wide (75%) and local (25%) hunger. As she has in some earlier years, Tammie Chrisman raised the most among our three walking teams. In 2023, the number of participating congregations was only 8; going back 15 years, that number was as large as 35. This year those 8 congregations raised a total of \$6,264. Many thanks to those who contributed to this year's effort. At this time, contributions can only be made on-line (www.crophungerwalk.org/marquettemi).

Please consider being part of the 2024 St. Paul's walking team. The walk is usually the first Sunday afternoon in October; we usually receive walker's envelopes before Labor Day.

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Provided for workers by St. Paul's Congregation *by Jacquy Shellenbarger*

This is the second successful year of providing lunches for Habitat workers. Members of our congregation provided the workers with lunches for three consecutive Mondays in August. This change helped make us more aware of needed food for the coming weeks. The second change was a consistent menu for each meal.

This included: sloppy joes and buns, two salads, brownies, fresh vegetables, and fresh fruit. Also, a donation of money helped by purchasing needed fruit for one of the meals. Three sign-up sheets, one for each date, were posted in the hallway outside the chapel. Those attending church service had the opportunity to leave their donation in the church kitchen, which was picked up and delivered the following morning.

The number of Habitat workers has increased this year and we served approximately 12 workers at each lunch. Because of lingering COVID fears last summer, many workers were reluctant to volunteer. Hopefully, the number of workers will continue to increase, and St. Paul's congregation will be as generous in 2024 as they were this year.

Thank you to all who worked on this project by donating food, money, and their time.

Team Brownsville

by Sue Micensky

I don't know how to put this warm feeling into words. During the August ingathering you donated \$358 and an overflowing bin of clothes and stuffed animals for the asylum seekers at our southern border! You are totally amazing!

Kathy Harrington, one of the founders of Team Brownsville, said, "Please extend our gratitude to your congregation. From the beginning, you have been such great supporters of Team Brownsville and we really do appreciate all that you do!"

Andrea Rudnik, another founding member, added, "We are so grateful to them for responding to our story. You know that every dollar goes to buy food, clothing, baby supplies, medicines, and other needed items. We can't do it without people like you and your church."

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Winter Quarter Schedule

The usual display of the Winter Quarter Schedule (January through March) and the various activity rosters will be posted on the "sign-up bulletin board" in the chapel hallway from **November 19** through **December 17**. You may use the weekly schedule to sign up for specific role(s) on specific date(s). You may use the appropriate rosters to tell me when not to schedule you or to increase the number of activities in which you wish to participate. I still notice that very few of those who asked to be removed from the activity rosters due to the pandemic have restored their names to the rosters; if you are in that category and have lingering concerns, please speak to me about that. Completed schedules will be distributed beginning **December 24**. Questions—ask Bob Railey.

Prayer During Time of Healing - BCP

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth,
but make me ready for whatever it may be.

If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely.

If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly.

If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently.

Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus.

Amen

(Marna shared this with me, and I now share it with you. Meg)

Liturgical Leadership

Sundays:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Preside</u>	<u>Preach</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
November 5*	All Saints	Marna	Marna	Coralie
November 12	Prop 27	Bob R.	Arlene	Coralie
November 19**	Prop 28	Marna	Marna	Mary
November 26	Prop 29	Jim	Bob P.	Mary

*Baptism and return to Standard Time

**Stewardship Sunday

November

Birthdays

Jan Edwards	4
Judd Spray	5
Alice Steinberger	5
Geoff Smith	6
Katie Edwards	11
Michael Edwards	15
Marcia Franz	15
Pat Micklow	20
Kate Rose	21
Ramina Mikhael	23
Ashley Johnson	26
Mary Sullivan	30

Ho Ho Ho

Looking Ahead - This year's December soup supper will be pizza. What is needed by congregation members will be cookies, bars, and large bottles of pop for our guests.

These items can be left in the church kitchen at your convenience.

Thank you, in advance, for donations.

December Messenger Deadline
Friday, November 24, 6pm.

The Messenger Team

Editor Meg Goodrich

Copy Editor - Jane Ryan

Lay-out - Jim Edwards

Reporter - Bob Railey

Copier - Sierra Larson



Liederabend

Saturday December
2nd, 2023 at 3pm
St. Paul's Episcopal
Church
Morgan Memorial
Chapel

Darrius Morton,
tenor
Jan Broderson,
pianist

Works by Brahms,
Beethoven, Schubert
and Hugo Wolf

Michigan Premiere of
Hugo Wolf's
Geistliche Lieder aus
dem Spanisches
Liederbuch (1890)

Free admission,
reception to follow.
All donated proceeds
benefit the future
sustainability of
sacred music
programs at St.
Paul's.