Rooted in Abundance

time, talent & treasure

SAINT PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

October 10, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

As our annual stewardship campaign gets underway, you've likely heard echoes of our program year theme: Defiant Hope: Rooted, Reaching, Rising. This bold and beautiful vision calls us to live in the world not with resignation, but with courage—digging deep into the soil of faith, stretching outward in love, and lifting our eyes toward God's possibilities. It is an invitation to resist despair with acts of generosity, justice, and joy.

Our stewardship theme this year, Rooted in Abundance, flows directly from that same spirit. It reminds us that we give not to get something back, but because we are rooted in a story of love, mercy, and hope that refuses to give in to fear. In the face of inflation, uncertainty, and challenge, we reach deeper and rise higher—because we believe in the abundant life God calls us to share.

That's why St. Paul's Cathedral has set a pledge goal of $1.4 million for 2026. This is what it will take to fully fund our ministries in the coming year. Our costs have risen dramatically—not because we are necessarily doing more, but because the basic necessities of operating our cathedral have become significantly more expensive. From last year to this year alone:

- Health insurance premiums have increased by 11%
- Property insurance has gone up 30%
- Utility costs have climbed by 72%
- Essential items like paper goods and cleaning supplies have also seen 131% increase!!

And these aren't isolated changes. Over the past five years, St. Paul's has experienced on average, a 35% increase in operating costs across the board, while our collective giving has only grown by 1–3% per year. This means that every year, we are stretched thinner, trying to do more with less.

Despite these rising costs, staff salaries have remained largely flat over the past several years. The people who pour their time, talent, and love into this community—week after week—have continued to serve faithfully, even as their own costs of living rise. These are the people who facilitate our being the body of Christ int he world. Increasing our giving is not just about sustaining programs; it's about caring for the people who make this ministry possible.

If our giving stays the same, we fall behind. But when each household increases their pledge—even by a small percentage—we unlock the power of our shared abundance. We don't need a few people to make massive increases. We need all of us to do just a little more, together.
I am deeply grateful to serve as chair of this year's campaign—a campaign that is, at its heart, a storytelling movement. I love hearing your stories: what grounds you at St. Paul's, how your household has flourished here, and where you've witnessed signs of new life. Every pledge you offer is part of our defiant hope—and every gift, no matter its size, will be brought to the altar and blessed in thanksgiving.

You'll notice that your pledge card reflects our whole-life approach to stewardship. One side invites your commitment of treasure—your financial support. The other side invites you to offer your time and talent. Time may include your presence at worship, your willingness to serve, or your gift of prayer. Talent includes your skills, creativity, and insight—how you help build up the Body of Christ in ways only you can. These are the roots, branches, and blossoms of a Cathedral rising in faith.

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As you pray about your commitment, I invite you to take a step forward this year. Give from the place where you are rooted. Give in defiance of fear. Give in hope that what we plant together will bloom in God's time. And give knowing that your generosity sustains the sacred and transformational work we are called to do—together.

With gratitude and hope,



Carol King
Stewardship Chair, St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral
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P.S. Consecration Sunday and our Thanks-a-Lunch celebration will be held on November 9th. If you are unable to attend, please submit the enclosed pledge card before that date so that all gifts may be gathered, offered, and blessed in community. If you can attend, please bring it with you on November 9th! And don't worry, we will have additional pledge cards for any and all who may need one.