

Growing Together in God's Love



Message from
the Rector Pg. 2

This is
St. Paul's Pg. 4

Budget Pg. 7

Pledging Pg. 11



An Invitation to Support
St. Paul's in 2026

St. Paul's Church, Chestnut Hill

Message from the Rector

“Right now, it feels like the world spends the whole week trying to tear me to shreds. But in 90 minutes on Sunday morning, Jesus knits me back together. Here endeth the lesson.”

Dear St. Paul's Family,

One of my favorite seminary professors recently shared these words and they resonated deeply with me. This is what we at St. Paul's provide each Sunday. A place where we can gather and be anchored in the Love of Jesus during a difficult time in our world. At St. Paul's, in the midst of it all, improbably, **we are growing together in God's love.**



I say “improbably” because we cannot let our minds go numb to the miraculous nature of what is happening here on Chestnut Hill Avenue: **St. Paul's is in a stronger place** as an institution than it has been for some time now. I have entered my fifth year as your rector and we have seen many signs of growing health and stability. You have been living into the challenge to be a “school of love” in the midst of an anxious time in our world. God's Holy Spirit is leading us in making St. Paul's a haven where we can experience God's love for us and for one another.

Many people have shared with me that they can feel the momentum of this time and that they feel that “St. Paul's is back.” St. Paul's, we need your help to keep this momentum going!

We have set a goal of \$800,000 for our annual pledge campaign this year. That is the amount we need to maintain our current level of staffing. The vestry has also set the goals of increasing the hours for our new development director, exploring new ways to expand our outreach to our neighbors who are nearby, providing more spaces on our campus for our burgeoning youth group to use, and outfitting our campus to increase our welcoming presence in the community. Inflation and the worldwide economic situation have many of us needing to tighten our belts, and the church's needs are increasing for those same reasons.



Fr. Eric Hungerford (L), Rector,
with Mtr. Madeleine Harris-Lerew
(R), Assistant Rector

We depend proportionally on your support more than larger institutions do. If you are in a position where you need to make a choice this year, remember that your giving makes a bigger impact at St. Paul's. Our staffing, our programming, our ability to keep the lights on - these depend on your generosity and commitment. Last year we were concerned that we weren't going to be able to make up the gap in pledging left when our most generous pledger passed. You stepped up to the plate and showed us what is possible.

This year we need you to do it again for the sake of a vital and healthy church and community. We rely on your support, please make your pledge today. Thank you for your generosity!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Eric Hungerford". The signature is stylized and includes a small cross at the end.

Fr. Eric+

This is St. Paul's



Stepping into the church at St. Paul's, many people experience a moment of wonder that takes their breath away. The soaring architecture, the carved wooden angels presiding with prayer hands over the pews below, the colored light coming through stained glass windows, the arresting stone labyrinth - all this magnificence is the sanctuary that we are privileged and blessed to call our church home. Almost 100 years old, it speaks of the generosity and foresight of our predecessors.

But St. Paul's is much more than an echo of the past. It is a warm and loving community of faith, comprised of people living very typical 21st century lives. As a congregation we are far more diverse than we were four generations ago, our faces and life stories reflecting the demographics of the modern-day neighborhoods that cluster around Chestnut Hill. We worship in the Episcopal fashion, clinging to beloved traditional forms while opening our hearts and minds to changes in the world around us. We receive spiritual and pastoral support from our clergy as we strive to follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The following pages tell more about St. Paul's, its many ministries, and its need for support. Your pledged gift will help to make sure that this community remains a place of safety, hope, and love for the generations that follow us.



Parish Life, Mission & Outreach

We strive to strengthen bonds and take care of our St. Paul's family; to take the message of the Gospel into the community beyond our four walls; and to extend a helping hand to our neighbors in need. Included are pastoral care, our diocesan sacred gift, community meals and food programs.



*"So neither the one who
plants nor the one who
waters is anything, but only
God who gives the growth."*

1 Corinthians 3:7



Worship & Music

The heart and soul of our Christian life together is conducted through three diverse Sunday morning services of Holy Eucharist and a rotating schedule of weekly services on Sunday evenings; midweek and off-campus services, baptisms, and special services such as Lessons & Carols and the Jazz Mass.

Christian Formation

Clergy, staff, and volunteers provide foundational spiritual education for children, youth and families, through Godly Play, St. Paul's Youth, the Parents' Exchange, and nursery care. Our clergy lead preparation for baptism and confirmation, weekly Bible Studies, and Adult Forums. Community activities include the Christmas Pageant, Advent Night, and Shrove Tuesday.



Property

We maintain our historic buildings to provide safe and welcoming spaces for worship, Christian formation activities, and life events including weddings and funerals. This area includes staff and contracted personnel charged with ongoing upkeep of all buildings and grounds, as well as utilities and taxes.

Photo credits here and throughout the booklet: Van Williams, Nick Steever, and Arabella Pope



Administration

We value healthy in-person communications within the parish and via live-streaming and social media. We seek to deepen our stewardship of resources with which we are blessed. We maintain a functional and compliant office with appropriate equipment, technology and supplies. Associated expenses include bookkeeping, audit, insurance, leases and subscriptions.



Budget

Budget Development



The vestry of St. Paul's has the responsibility of approving an annual parish operating budget that is both realistic and reflective of the hopes and aspirations of the parish. Each December a budget is presented for approval following a process in which the Budget and Finance Committees consider continuing needs, essential expenditures, and requests from parish ministries against anticipated revenue from pledging, gifts, interest income and other sources.

The vestry has this year identified four areas of parish operations as priorities in budgeting for 2026. The intention is to direct available resources across those areas that will, in various ways, underpin and build on the exciting growth that the St. Paul's community is currently experiencing.

Budget Priorities

Building Our Ministry of Welcome. This encompasses a variety of efforts to be welcoming at worship and have an appealing campus that draws people in, to make improvements to the entrance area of Dixon House, to assist in integrating newcomers, and to spread the word about St. Paul's through social and traditional media outlets. The Sacred Grounds project is one example of this effort.

Supporting Our Youth Ministry. The growing St. Paul's Youth (SPY) group would like to renovate an existing room in the crypt to provide a comfortable and relaxing recreational space. Funds are also needed to support SPY's social and mission activities.



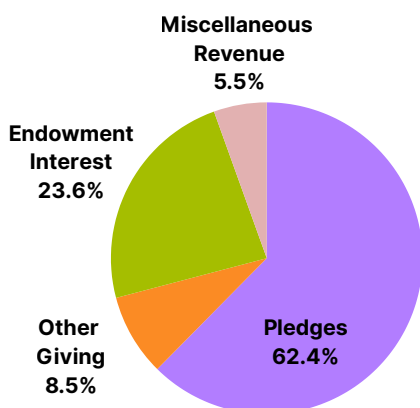
Hands-on Outreach Projects. There is a desire to bring more immediate outreach efforts to address the growing need in our neighborhood. One plan is to establish a satellite food cupboard on the St. Paul's campus to directly serve those in urgent need, and possibly to organize a monthly community meal. In the longer term, ideas are being explored for a local "rummage style" thrift center that could both be a resource and generate some income.

Expanding our Staff Capacity. As St. Paul's grows in numbers, so does the need for administrative support. The recent hire of a part-time Director of Congregational Stewardship is expected to energize our annual revenue-generating operations, and assist the growth of our endowment income as a result of enhanced planned giving efforts. Improving overall parish communications is also a goal as the congregation grows and diversifies, and as new program and service opportunities present themselves.

2026 Budget

	2025 Actual	2026 Projected
Parish Life, Mission & Outreach	\$222,567	\$233,695
Worship & Music	\$334,223	\$344,250
Christian Formation	\$93,523	\$97,264
Property	\$232,328	\$241,621
Administration	\$329,749	\$349,534
TOTAL	\$1,212,390	\$1,266,364

The five areas of parish operations shown in this table are described in more detail on pages 5 and 6. The projected 2026 expense budget is a 4.45% increase over the 2025 budget. It includes a standard 3% increase that allows for inflation on salaries and fixed costs. There is also specific provision for greater expenditure in the areas designated by the vestry as priorities for expansion in 2026.



2025 Revenue Sources

A breakdown of revenue sources for 2025 is shown here. The final 2026 budget will be adjusted based on updated projections of revenue and expenses, and approved by the vestry in December on recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committees.



2026 Campaign Goal

\$800,000

This goal has been set in order to meet our projected budget needs. It is a responsible increase that maintains the modest 4.5% draw rate from our endowment that has been the vestry spending policy for several years. It sustains the essential contribution to the whole parish budget made by pledged gifts.

It is also an ambitious target that increases by 9.4% the \$731,470 pledge total raised from generous parishioners for the 2025 year. With faith, hope, and great confidence in our shared ability to meet this goal, we invite you to consider prayerfully how you can support St. Paul's with your pledge for 2026.

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come."

Mark 4:26-29 ; The Parable of the Growing Seed

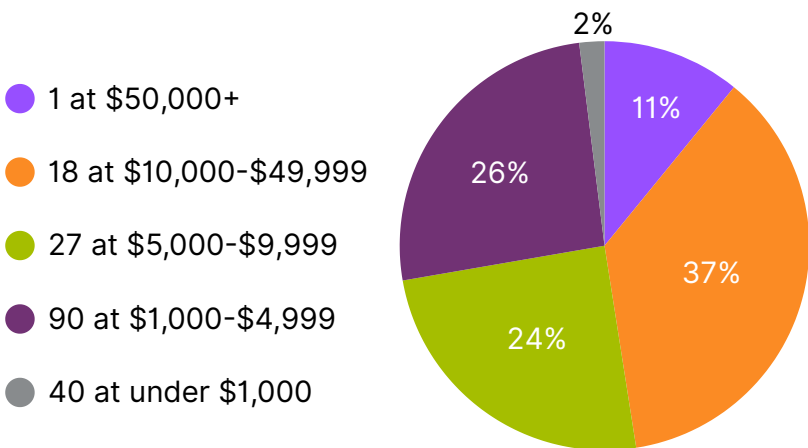
Pledging

What is Pledging?

Episcopal parishes operate substantially on funds that are given annually by its members and other friends. St. Paul's relies on pledges for almost two-thirds of its operating revenue. Pledging simply means that people indicate their intention to contribute an amount of their choice during the course of the coming financial year. This form of covenant giving is non-binding, but is extremely helpful in making decisions about the allocation of resources.

The Stewardship Campaign is a season of asking and giving. At St. Paul's we typically conduct a campaign each year in the fall, so that pledges made at that time can guide the preparation of the parish budget for the following year. However pledges and other donations are gratefully received at any time of the year.

2025 Distribution of Pledges



How Much Should I Pledge?

Simply put, financial gifts are needed to continue building the community of St. Paul's so that we can grow together in faith and reach out to extend compassion and love to our neighbors. The amount of your gift is a matter between you and God, to be prayerfully discerned. A starting point may be to consider where St. Paul's figures among your charitable priorities and household finances.

Proportional Giving Chart

Annual Household Income		\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000
Tithe Rate	8%	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$16,000
	10%	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000
	12%	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$18,000	\$24,000
	15%	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$22,500	\$30,000

Some people use the tradition of tithing as a guideline, meaning that 10% of family income is directed to the church. This table shows tithe amounts at different percentages and income levels. Or, you may decide to increase your previous pledge by 4.45% in line with the overall budget increase for 2026. Or, you may feel called to respond more substantially to the challenge of meeting our ambitious pledge goal. Some families and individuals may find any of these to be a hard goal to achieve, whereas others are able to contribute at a higher level. You should determine an amount to pledge that brings you true joy in making your gift.

How Do I Pledge?

Online. Visit St. Paul's website, click under the "Giving" tab, and Pledge for 2026. Or, scan the QR code and complete the simple pledge form online.

By Mail. Send or bring a completed pledge card to St. Paul's. Pledge cards and envelopes were included in the campaign mailing and are available in the Parish House.



How Do I Make Pledge Payments?

- You may fulfill your pledge at any time during 2026 with a single payment or in installments to suit your convenience.
- Special envelopes for cash or checks are available and may be returned in the collection plate or mailed; these are helpful to the parish office in directing the payment towards your pledge.
- Visit **onrealm.org/stpaulschestnuthill/give** to make single or installment payments securely online. You can also set up automatic payments using the St. Paul's Realm system. No account is necessary to make a payment through Realm.
- You may make a gift by donating appreciated stock or securities, through a Donor Advised Fund, or through an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (age 70 ½ and over).

Questions?

Please contact Inaara Neal-Shiraz at stewardship@stpaulschestnuthill.org or call 215-242-2055 x27.

Why Do I Pledge?

“St. Paul's has been a place of holy invitation for me & my wife Karen since the first Sunday we visited. When we moved to the area, we sought a church home with a strong music program and a commitment to doing Christ's work in the world.”

— Kara McShane



“My family has been a part of this parish for more than 115 years. Whether my life has been going well or not so well, I've always felt welcome and safe at St. Paul's. It is to help keep this family safe and alive for the future that I volunteer and contribute to St. Paul's.”

— Clark Groome

Testimonials from Pledgers

“As Christians, we are called to follow the example of Christ, who through his amazing love gave His all for us. In giving, I can demonstrate my gratitude. I believe St. Paul’s can be a powerful beacon to light the way for many, but it will take the generous gifts of us all to make it happen.”

— *Janice Fiore*



“Lauren and I give because we feel blessed with the ability to do so, and we do so with joy. We were both raised with the value of generosity. As my reliance on St. Paul’s continues to grow, I believe my contributions to the ministries that have given so much to my family should grow as well.”

— *Colin Brown*

Stewardship Campaign Dates

OCTOBER 26

First Sunday

Holy Eucharist at 8:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 2

Second Sunday

Holy Eucharist at 8:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

All Souls Fauré Requiem at 5:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 9

Third Sunday

Holy Eucharist at 8:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 16

Fourth Sunday

Holy Eucharist at 8:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

Choral Evensong at 5:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 23

Fifth Sunday

Turkey Donations Collected Before Church

Combined Holy Eucharist Service at 10 a.m.

Blessing of Pledges and Giving of Thanks

Festive Lunch at 12:00 p.m.

2026 Stewardship Campaign Leadership Team

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Arabella Pope (*Chairperson*)

Pamela Bracey

Colin Brown

Chip Butler

Clark Groome

Steve Pearson

Matthew Sware

Inaara Neal-Shiraz

(*Director of Congregational
Stewardship*)

VESTRY

Kara McShane (*Rector's Warden*)

Chesley Lightsey (*Parishioner's Warden*)

Colin Brown (*Accounting Warden*)

Wendy Munyon (*Secretary*)

Brian Henes

Matthew Hyde

Alix Jones

Denise Jones

Dick Kolb

Arabella Pope

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Frankie Sims



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