

The Anglican Church of St. Paul, L'Amoreaux

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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

November 1, 2024

Dear Friends,

One of the surprising emphases in our study of 2 Corinthians this fall is Paul's insistence that a Christian lives not only by the power of our Lord's resurrection but also by the power of his crucifixion and death.

We are familiar with the power of the resurrection and what's involved: the power of God raising Jesus to new life now shared with us and at work in our lives, giving us hope in the face of sin and death and strength to follow him.

But the power of his crucifixion? How could the crucifixion be anything more than a shameful tragedy?

Well, as Paul puts it in Romans (6.4-11), we have died with him so that we might rise with him, dying to all that is contrary to the will of God. And we die to anything impeding the reflection of Christ in our lives. And why wouldn't we? Consider what we see at work in the humility of Jesus himself.

The humility of his life among us, having given up the glory and authority of heaven.

The humility of his service among us, seeking out the sick and calling the little ones to himself.

The humility of his witness, leaving his words and actions to stand on their own merit, refusing the sword to force himself upon others.

The humility of his sacrifice on the cross, his life given as a ransom for the world.

And how does this apply in our ordinary lives?

It is the power of having a light touch of our material treasures, quick to share with others.

It is the power to see what is fundamental in life and resist the power of what's flashy and superficial.

It is the power giving us patience for the long road in the care of our families, of raising our children in the fear of the Lord, of being true and faithful friends to each other.

It is the power of conviction when, among other things, a whole society tries setting its course as if there is no God, with one of the first consequences being the discarding of lives it scorns rather than receiving and cherishing every life, from beginning to end, as a gift from God.

There is power not only in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but in his crucifixion as we accept Jesus Christ, stepping back and out of the way and letting the light of his life shine in our own.

As Paul says to the Philippians:

. . . make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:2–5)

With this final note, and one which I find consoling.

As our study guide points out, Paul was breaking new ground not only in the ministry of reconciliation which he urged the believers to accept, but also in the power of the crucifixion to which he bore witness. But it did not come easily, even for Paul. In 2 Corinthians, we see Paul up close and personal, like a man walk into a building strong and confident, but limping out of it with open wounds. And yet Paul would come to wear his wounds proudly, because in his sufferings Paul experienced an even greater intimacy with Jesus Christ, realizing the power of our Lord to act, sometimes in spite of our weakness, more often through it.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” was the promise of the Lord by which Paul lived. And so, he said,

. . . I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me . . . I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Co 12:9–10).

2 Corinthians is a word for our times. Not only did Covid knock us off balance, it shook many loose from the anchors in their lives. One thing we’ve seen is that some were quick to conclude that they can live without God, but not so quick to answer - then by what will I live?

Here at St. Paul’s our eyes will remain fixed on Jesus Christ. Together, we will let God’s great love be the controlling force of our lives. And our fear - our deepest loyalty and respect - will be directed toward the one and true Lord and King - who calms the storm, who forgives the sinner, who heals the lame. We will let the love of God heal and purify our hearts, offering our lives as a light on the hill for the sake of Jesus Christ and the redemption of the world.

The first weeks of November are our annual stewardship emphasis in support of our Christian mission. Here we are anchored in Jesus Christ and the proven and historic practices of the faith that strengthen this calling - Sunday services, the Scriptures, the Sacraments, prayer, study, and service. And to see through the liturgy the beauty and truthfulness of the life into which Jesus Christ leads.

The annual emphasis is also an invitation to be an active part of a congregation of people similarly called by Jesus Christ and similarly bound to him, whose mission is nothing less than the peace of the world. In the economy of God where many hands make great things possible, we pray for each other, we help each other, and together we reach out to the African diaspora and the Tamil and Chinese speaking communities in Toronto, we support sports, music and education programs for the young, an orphanage in Jamaica, a palliative care program in north Sri Lanka, a community

centre in Nigeria. And week by week, we experience a little of the happiness and harmony God has made possible through his Spirit. A true foretaste of what God intends for the world.

The annual Stewardship emphasis has a threefold purpose:

- *To give an account of how the gifts received by the parish are applied.
- *To highlight the fundamental areas in the Christian mission of the parish.
- *And to emphasize the central place and grateful obligation of stewardship in the life of every Christian.

St. Paul's has seven fundamental areas of ministry and service. This remains unchanged and we are pursuing each one of them wholeheartedly, adapting to the new circumstances post-Covid as quickly and creatively as we can. Here is a brief description and the percentage of the gifts received that are committed to them:

*Christian worship (41%) - the beating heart of the parish offered through daily prayer, through sacramental service throughout the week and climaxing at the Sunday Eucharist. Online services and recordings continue to be offered, along with a return to the services in the church.

*Outreach (24%) - with our gifts and our hands we act out the riddle of the Christian life: that in giving our lives away in the name of Christ, we discover in full the meaning, depth and joy of the life God has given to us. Generous support throughout the year and the 2023 International Food Festival and Walk-a-thon have encouraged this ministry.

*Education (14%) - for every member, infant through elder, families and individuals preparing for baptism, young people in their discernment, couples for marriage, all Christians in our faith.

*Pastoral care (9%) - by the clergy and by every member, bearing witness in the world that this Christian community will be known by their love for one another (John 13.35).

*Evangelism (6%) - the presentation to those who seek of what it means to accept and practice the Christian faith in the person of Jesus Christ.

*Fellowship (6%) - the responsibility to meet together as the Scripture teaches (Hebrews 10.25). This was an area of great loss during the pandemic, but we thank God that this is being restored and for the lessons that our Lord taught us. The beauty of silence and rest. The beauty of the natural world which we are always free to enjoy. The priceless gift of our families. The depth of Holy Scripture. The grace of our Lord's touch when other distractions are set aside.

*Administration. Like so many other professions, in a matter of days the parish converted much of its daily administration to online methods as well as establishing safe and secure means for receiving the gifts of the parish when receiving them in person was no longer possible. Now as the office re-opens, last year's work of innovation and upgrading has been integrated and is serving us well.

In spite of Covid we have continued in our Christian duties in all these areas. And because of the amazing financial support from the congregation throughout the pandemic, our income remained well above 90% of our targets - a remarkable result.

Here are our five-year projections for envelope gifts:

2025	\$328,000
2026	\$332,900
2027	\$337,900
2028	\$344,600
2029	\$351,600

So, three things to say in conclusion.

First and foremost, regular giving according to the standard of the Biblical tithe is one of the fundamental practices of a Christian. It is the offering to God of our first and best gift. It is the support of the body of which Christ has made us a part. For his sake, it is our hand extended in service to those in need and in invitation to those drawing near to Christ.

Secondly, the ideal is and will remain the gift given on Sunday while attending Sunday services, another of our fundamental practices. But when regular weekly attendance is interrupted, we appeal to everyone to consider alternatives. The recommended alternatives are Pre-Authorized Giving or E-transfers. Both are secure, the P.A.G. is regular and the E-transfer can be made regular, and both are cost efficient, in most cases less expensive than writing a cheque.

With both P.A.G. and E-transfers, the amount is up to you. P.A.G. contributions can be changed with a simple note or a phone call to the Envelope Secretary. They are safe and secure. And they are regular, matching the regular and day to day obligations of the parish.

The regular Sunday giving of our faithful members has made St. Paul's strong and has kept us strong. But so long as this exceptional time continues, we ask you to consider one of the online alternatives. We recommend the P.A.G. or a regular E-transfer.

And thirdly, in our annual Stewardship Emphasis three practical requests are made.

1) First, we ask that every member review their annual giving, remembering that the 2.5% inflation anticipated in 2025 affects the church just as it does each of our homes. The parish remains strong and stable but we need everyone's support.

2) Secondly, in a time when Sunday attendance is interrupted, you are asked to consider a pre-authorized gift (described above) that provides regular support for the regular expenses that the parish faces.

3) And thirdly, every member is challenged to give at least 2% on the way toward the Christian ideal of the 10% tithe.

Weekly Offering						
Annual Income	1%	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%
\$20,000	\$4	\$8	\$15	\$23	\$31	\$38
\$30,000	\$6	\$12	\$23	\$35	\$46	\$58
\$40,000	\$8	\$15	\$31	\$46	\$62	\$77
\$50,000	\$10	\$19	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$96
\$75,000	\$14	\$29	\$58	\$87	\$115	\$144
\$100,000	\$19	\$38	\$77	\$115	\$154	\$192

The stewardship of our time and resources is one of the most important aspects of Christian life. The people of St. Paul, L'Amoreaux have given generously from the resources with which they have been blessed so that the church can remain financially sound and vibrant. This generosity is reflected in regular giving from which the operating costs are met and the various outreach and community programs funded. The people of St. Paul's recognize that while we should enjoy the good things the Lord has provide, we cannot consider ourselves true Christians without giving generously to the work of God.

Despite all the challenges of the last few years, the support and generosity of the members St Paul's has remained strong. We thank you. We seek your continuing support as together again we seek to fill the air with the praise of God and serve wholeheartedly in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

A COLLECT FOR STEWARDSHIP

O God, in whose image we are created, guide us to make this parish a wefalcoming home where spiritual growth is encouraged. Inspire us to use the gifts you have entrusted to us to serve Christ in all the communities of the world You love. We pray as disciples of Jesus, and in His name. Amen.

God bless you.

Michael Gregory, Chair of the Stewardship Committee
Fr. Dean Mercer, Parish Priest

Bernie Bellis, Treasurer
Daisy Lucas, Envelope Secretary
Ivy Matthews, Volunteer Coordinator
Peter Conliffe-Layne, Incumbent's Warden; Keith Morris, People's Warden
George Millington, Ravi Thirugnanam - Deputy Wardens



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PAG Authorization Form

Charitable Registration Number 11919 4504 RR 0001

I/We, _____, request and authorize St. Paul's* to debit my/our account on the 20th of every month in the amount of \$ _____, starting on the 20th of _____ (enter month).

This contribution is made to the benefit of:

The Anglican Church of St. Paul, L'Amoreaux
3333 Finch Ave., East, Scarborough, ON, M1W 2R9

This contribution by me/us is to benefit:

Current operations \$ _____

Other \$ _____ (please specify) _____

If not specified contributions will go to benefit current operations

This donation is made by (circle one): Individual(s) Business

Please attach a VOID cheque

Signature: _____ Date: _____

- I may change the amount of my contribution at any time subject to providing 15 days notice.
- I may revoke my authorization at any time, subject to providing 15 days notice at which time I will submit a cancellation form obtained from the Church office, contacting my financial institution or visiting www.cdnpay.ca.
- I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with the PAG agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.
- **I waive my right to receive pre-notification of the amount of the Pre-Authorized Gift (PAG) and agree that I do not require advance notice of the amount of PAG before the debit is processed.**

St. Paul's Contact: The Envelope Secretary, 416-499-1545, stpl@stpl.ca.

** St. Paul's contracts The United Church of Canada to process PAG's on its behalf. As such it is The United Church of Canada that does the actual withdrawal of funds. The use, retention and disclosure of personal information collected from this form is done in compliance with privacy legislation, including but not limited to, the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (2000, c.5). legislation, including but not limited to, the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (2000, c.5)*