

The Anglican Church of St. Paul, L'Amoreaux

3333 Finch Avenue, East,
Scarborough, Ontario, M1W 2R9
stpl@stpl.ca; www.stpl.ca



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

November 14, 2020

Dear friends,

Every year at this time is our Stewardship emphasis.

Its purpose is threefold:

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.

With Covid-19, the year 2020 was unlike any year in the 179 years of our parish history, in the 180 years of Christian ministry when the first priest was sent to this community.

And so, our written presentation to you is also different, in the form of this letter to the parish.

St. Paul's has seven fundamental areas of ministry and service. In spite of Covid-19, this is unchanged and we are pursuing each one of them wholeheartedly, adapting to the new circumstances as quickly and creatively as we can.

*Christian worship - the beating heart of the parish offered through daily prayer, through sacramental service throughout the week and climaxing at the Sunday Eucharist. In exceptional times, exceptional means such as the online services have been developed, along with a gradual return to the services in the church.

*Outreach - 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.

*Pastoral care - 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).

Importantly, in both these areas of Outreach and Pastoral Care, never have the needs of the parish and community have been more pronounced, as is our challenge to adapt and respond to loss of work, mental distress, isolation and loneliness.

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

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

*Fellowship - *in a time when gathering is discouraged and singing prohibited.* This is the area of greatest loss, but in the communion of saints, it is not without precedent. While some of it is relieved by phone and online, with open hearts the parish must teach - and all of us accept - the lessons that our Lord is teaching in this time. The beauty of silence and rest. The beauty of the natural world which we are still 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 laid aside.

And . . .

*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. Not only was this complex, but time-consuming and full of frustrations, aligning our procedures with our government, business and diocesan partners. It was accomplished.

This is an exceptional time, noted not only because an exception creates a challenge, it also presents temptations.

The most serious temptation is the temptation to withdraw, to think of ourselves as phantoms in the cloud, alone and solitary. There is a temptation to become dangerously disconnected to the real people with whom we share our lives. We are not phantoms, but flesh and blood people meant to be together, sharing each other's lives, uniting with Christ who offers his very self in the sacrament.

Secondly, this exceptional time is tiring. The safety restrictions wear us down. Long hours of television and the internet numb both body and soul. That is why we remember with gratitude our best days at St. Paul's, the Christian festivals, the great concerts, the simple fellowship at Bible study and meals together, the generosity of a parish through deeds and gifts. On the parish website, last year's Narrative Budget remains posted. It now serves as the guide and the goal to which we seek to return. And with full-throated prayers, we pray for the protection of each member, an end to this season of Covid-19, and a return to our life together.

Here's an interesting question: What are the prayers our Lord wants to hear and answer?" One of them is prayer for an end to this epidemic. Learning the lessons of this exceptional time is another.

With this in mind, once again we present to the parish our stewardship responsibilities for the year ahead.

There are three things to say.

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 in this time 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.

They 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 in this exceptional time, we ask you to consider one of the online alternatives. We recommend the PAG or a regular E-transfer.

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

1) First, you are asked to indicate your intended offering for the 2021 fiscal year on the enclosed pledge card. *Never has this been more important or urgent.* The parish remains strong and stable but we need everyone's support to weather the storm. Your pledge offers enormous help in planning for the year ahead.

2) Secondly, during this time of interrupted Sunday attendance, 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

Stewardship is one of the most important aspects of Christian life. The people of St. Paul, L'Amoreaux continue to respond to the call to be good stewards by giving 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 the regular giving of our members from which the operating costs are met and the various outreach and community programs funded. It is a recognition by the congregation that while we should enjoy the good things the Lord has given us we cannot consider ourselves true Christians without giving generously to the work of God.

A COLLECT FOR STEWARDSHIP

O God, in whose image we are created, guide us to make this parish a welcoming 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, Financial Coordinator
Daisy Lucas & Michael Gregory, Envelope Secretaries
Ivy Matthews, Volunteer Coordinator
Peter Conliffe-Layne, Incumbent's Warden
Lucy Fung, People's Warden
George Millington, Keith Morris, Ravi Thirugnanam - Deputy Wardens

The Anglican Church of St. Paul, L'Amoreaux

3333 Finch Avenue, East,
Scarborough, Ontario, M1W 2R9



Stewardship 2021
FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD
Together, we weather the storm.

I/We pledge a total of \$ _____ for the year 2021 toward the ministries, programs, and operations of St. Paul's, L'Amoreaux.

My/Our pledge will be paid:

Weekly \$ _____

Monthly \$ _____

One-time \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____
(No. & Street) _____ City

Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

I/We select the following payment option for 2021:

- Continue Pre-Authorized Giving
- Convert to Pre-Authorized Giving
(please attach void cheque)
- Convert to Online e-transfers
- Continue to use Weekly Offering Envelopes
- Continue to use Monthly Offering Envelopes

THANK YOU FOR BEING A FAITHFUL STEWARD
Tax receipts are issued for all gifts.
Commitment starts January 2021.

For assistance or information, contact:

Michael Gregory, Stewardship Committee Chair
Tel.: (416) 499-1545; Fax: (416) 499-5007
www.stpl.ca; stpl@stpl.ca