

Every year at this time, we reflect upon the current year and start to dream and plan for what's ahead. As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, we find ourselves excited and optimistic about what's possible for us as a church and a community.

We look forward to so many of our beloved traditions and we also seek to continuously discover more ways to connect and deepen our shared faith. Our commitment to the financial vitality of St. Paul's is essential for the preservation of these traditions and for possibilities to come to fruition. St. Paul's reaches out to you, our community, in gratitude, hope, and passion for the journey that awaits us. Let us use our gifts to make a difference in the world, for each other, our church, and our community—in God's name.

"Jesus said...a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household, who brings forth from personal treasure things that are familiar and things that are new."

— Matthew 13:52-53



St. PAUL'S
Episcopal Church
BURLINGAME



TRADITIONS When we think of St. Paul's traditions, many of us think first of the practices at the core of our worship - the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. These expressions of our Christian faith connect us to the generations who have gone before. We also think of the traditions that are specific, and even unique, to St. Paul's that we are blessed to share: the Advent Festival with the Giving Tree, Advent Lessons and Carols, the Christmas pageant, the expanse of our adult and children's music programs, the flower-filled cross on Easter Sunday, Bishop's Ranch weekends, the MLK Day of Service, the blessing of backpacks and animals, and, of course, The Circle of St. Paul's rummage sales, and the Fall BBQ. Indeed, we are incredibly blessed to share cherished traditions at St. Paul's, as they all contribute to what makes St. Paul's the vibrant community that it is. And these traditions happen through leadership from our faith-filled staff in synergy with the tireless efforts of so many in our St. Paul's community: the Altar Guild, the Choir, The Circle, the Outreach Team, the Property Committee, Greeters, Ushers, Acolytes, Lectors, the Healing Team, the Welcoming Team, the Celebration of Life Team, and the list goes on. These traditions are the bounty of your support and those who have come before us at St. Paul's.



BLESSINGS Blessings abound at St. Paul's—from the blessings found in each and every service of worship during the year, to individual blessings given and received in conversations, visits, or group collaboration on a St. Paul's activity or project. A sense of gratitude for God's generosity in our lives underlies our commitment to one another in this community and affords a shared foundation for contributing our personal gifts of time, talent, and treasure toward ensuring the vitality of St. Paul's, our spiritual home. It wasn't so long ago that the Skillings garden was completed; now, it's hard to imagine not having the labyrinth as the centerpiece of such a beautiful garden. Likewise, the Fall Fellowship meals are a highly popular offering each fall. We receive blessings as we commit ourselves to others in relationships forged through intergenerational house-building trips to Mexico with Corazón, Healing Team gatherings, and Episcopal Youth events that lead us to connect within our diocese and the wider church. These blessings flow from your faithful financial support of St. Paul's.



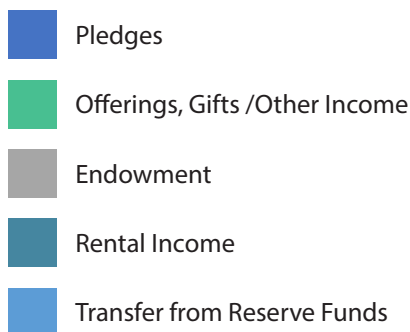
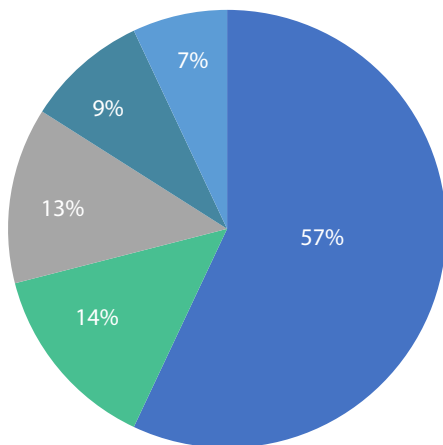
POSSIBILITIES With the arrival last summer of The Rev. Sarah C. Stewart as the seventh rector of St. Paul's, many of us had present and future possibilities for St. Paul's on our minds.

What is possible for St. Paul's as we move forward? Through what means can we strengthen our connections with each other? In what ways can we deepen our faith? How can we continue to foster and develop the faith of our future generations at St. Paul's?

Possibilities can be about nurturing existing traditions and blessings, as well as listening to the Holy Spirit to grow new ones. We are exploring fresh educational opportunities such as the Sunday morning offerings of "Transforming Faith," and new expressions of youth leadership including Youth Sunday, communal Evenings of Wonder, Adult Spiritual Journey, and the new Tai Chi class. We continue to cultivate deeper connections in the community through local partnerships with LifeMoves, refugee ministry programs, and Samaritan House. The Spirit is calling us this year to experiment with fresh forms of worship that embody God's care in new ways, including a "Blue Christmas" experience for those who may find the holidays complicated, and a family-friendly Agape Meal with Foot Washing in Holy Week. We hope you will come and see the grace God is multiplying as we step into these possibilities that are brought to fruition through the financial support of all of us at St. Paul's.



SOURCES OF REVENUE IN 2023



TRADITIONS, BLESSINGS & POSSIBILITIES: THE IMPORTANCE OF STEWARDSHIP

Pledge income is essential to supporting the staff, ministries, programs, and church campus that enliven our community and deepen our faith lives. Expenses for 2024 are expected to increase much like in the world beyond St. Paul's. **It will take a 10 percent increase in income - most notably through increased pledges - to achieve a balanced budget in 2024.**

PLEDGES – **57% OF REVENUE**

Committed by households last fall for 2023

OFFERINGS, GIFTS AND OTHER INCOME – **14% OF REVENUE**

Contributed by individuals through offerings and other gifts during the year and by The Circle of St. Paul's from its rummage sales

ENDOWMENT (MEMORIAL) FUNDS – **13% OF REVENUE**

Earned income from invested legacy gifts dedicated to sustaining St. Paul's financial health

RENTAL INCOME – **9% OF REVENUE**

Received from St. Paul's Nursery School (an independent entity) and other outside groups

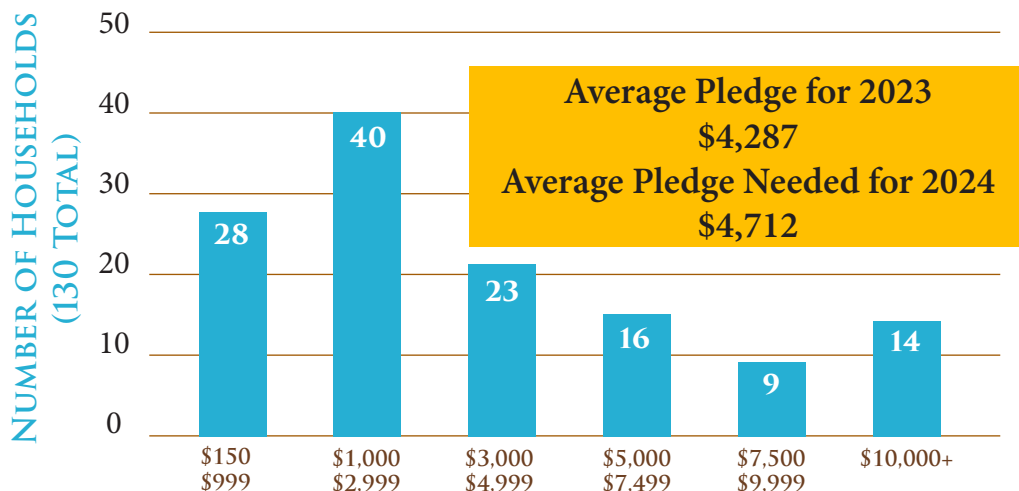
TRANSFER FROM RESERVE FUNDS – **7% OF REVENUE**

Limited reserve funds approved by St. Paul's Vestry to bridge the cost of current staff and programs until revenue matches expenses

DECIDING HOW MUCH TO PLEDGE

Pledging is both a deeply personal choice and a transformative spiritual practice involving our response to God's generosity in our lives. Prayer can help us lean into gratitude as we discern what God is calling us to give of our financial resources, to sustain the work of Christ through the ministries of our church. Last year, 130 households pledged \$557,310 toward the overall St. Paul's budget of \$919,818. This translated to an average pledge of \$4,287. **Whatever amount you feel called to give, your pledge is your commitment to join us in preserving St. Paul's traditions, sharing our blessings, and exploring future possibilities for the St. Paul's community.**

PLEDGE REPORT FOR 2023



PLEDGE SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 29. Please mail or bring your pledge card, or pledge online at stpaulsburlingame.org/support.