

*St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
in New Orleans*

Blessed to be a Blessing

September 21, 2008

Dear Friends,

As we prepare for our stewardship ingathering and consider what it means to be a child of God, a disciple of Jesus Christ, and a part of St. Paul's parish family, we offer these questions.

1. Have I been an active participant in the life of St. Paul's this past year? If not, do I wish that I were?
2. Am I actively involved in at least one ongoing ministry, such as the Altar Guild, Choir, Lector, Usher, Coffee hour hosting, Sunday School, Beacon of Hope, or Committees?
3. How do I feel about the proportion of my resources that I have returned to their ultimate Source? How does this compare with my family's other expenditures?
4. Does my commitment of time to St. Paul's represent an appropriate percentage of the total number of hours I have available for charitable activity?
5. Is there an element of sacrifice in what I give of my time, energy, and money to the church? Or do I tend to fall back on what is easy?
6. Is the check I write to the parish from my "first fruits", based in faith, or do I give out of my financial "leftovers."
7. Have I been willing to make a pledge to this parish as a tangible sign of my devotion and dedication to its ministry? Or do I assume others will keep St. Paul's going and growing?

We know some of these questions are challenging, and they are meant to be. No one, not the Vestry, the Rector, nor anyone else at St. Paul's, can answer any of these questions for you or discern their meaning and relevance to your life and circumstances.

We do make this promise to you, and ask you to do the same: We promise to examine these issues seriously and, most of all, prayerfully, being honest with ourselves and, where appropriate, with others in dealing with our fears, hopes, and dreams about this place and ministry; and we will rely ultimately on our understanding of God's purpose for our lives, and will be guided by His will.

For your review and consideration, please find the enclosed pledge card, prayer card, and operations information.

We pray for God's grace as we approach the coming year.

Fondly and faithfully in Christ,
St. Paul's Vestry

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