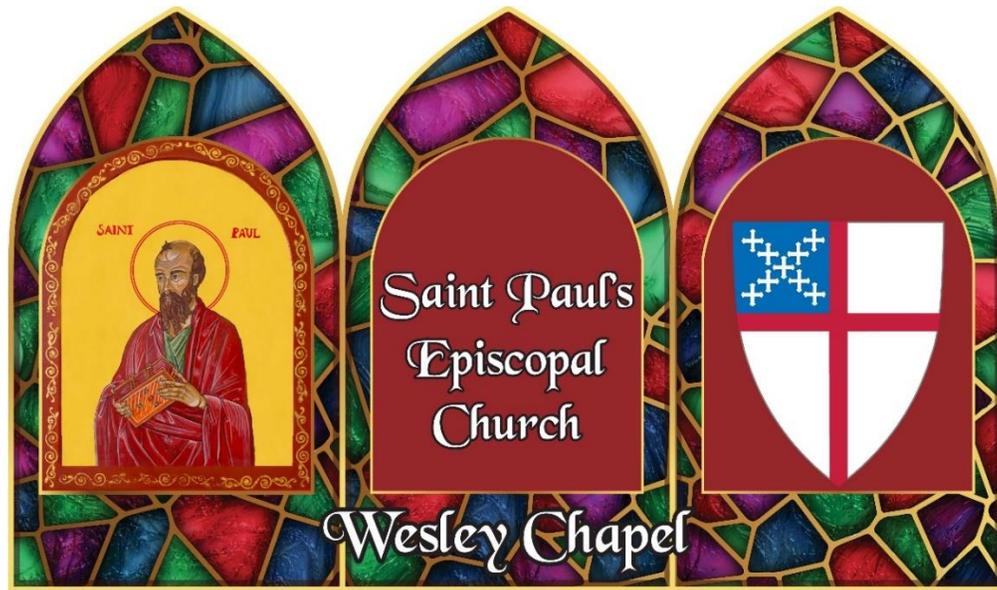


# Standing On Our Own Two Feet 2023 Giving Invitation



3836 Flatiron Loop, Suite 101  
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

*“...How are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” –Romans 10:15*

## Just Imagine...

Just imagine what Sunday services would look and feel like without music or flowers or altar supplies, which include the oil for the candles and the wafers for communion. Imagine what Sunday services would be like without air conditioning or electricity. St. Paul's is subject to all of the expenses other businesses are, including utilities, insurance, maintenance, and supplies to properly maintain our worship space. We have come a long way from worshiping in the car dealership conference room, but we have a long way to go in order to realize stability in this worship space as we move toward the reality of our church building of the future.

## Standing on Our Own Two Feet Requires Truth-telling

- Truth #1:** St. Paul's is not financially self-supporting. Becoming financially independent, and less dependent on the diocese, will take a lot!
- Truth #2:** Without the diocesan funding, St. Paul's would have neither a dedicated worship space and fellowship hall, nor a full-time priest.
- Truth #3:** St. Paul's is financially vulnerable. The possibility that this church may not survive is real.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Did you know that the support from the diocese decreases each year by \$20,000?** For budget year ending December 2022 the diocese will have contributed \$180,000. Next year, budget year 2023, our diocesan support will be \$160,000.

**Did you know that our rent for St. Paul's worship space and fellowship hall increases annually?** Our monthly rental amount to occupy our sanctuary and parish hall increased by 1% in September to \$7,629. In September 2023, the rent increases 3% each year for the next five years.

**Did you know that St. Paul's is currently unable to afford a full-time priest?** The salary and benefits for our full-time priest in 2022 totaled \$120,893, most of which is covered by the Diocese.

**Did you know that the \$84,152 in pledge income comes from 31 pledges?** The average pledge equals \$2715 per year. Just to offset the \$20,000 decrease in diocesan support using our average pledge amount, we will need 8 additional pledging members.

## 2022 Budget at A Glance Rent and Full-time Priest Totaled \$211,833

Diocesan Funding	\$180,000	67.4%
2022 Committed Pledges	\$ 84,152	31.5%
Plate Income	\$ 3,000	1.1%

## In 2023 Diocesan Funding Decreases, Expenses Increase

*Diocesan Funding Decreases from \$180,000 to \$160,000*  
*Operating Expenses (not including rent and priest salary) projected to Increase by 10%*  
*Total Income from Pledges Needed = \$110,150*  
*The average pledge amount = \$2715*  
*Total Pledges Needed = 41*

## Operating Expenses Up Close: How Many Pledges Does It Take?

Here's how many pledge units it will take to maintain the following operating expenses in 2023.

Expected 2023 Expense	Function	Average Pledge Units Needed
\$ 17,050.00	Music	6.28
\$ 4,620.00	Bookkeeping	1.70
\$ 3,300.00	Cleaning Service	1.22
\$ 3,300.00	Flower Expense	1.22
\$ 2,970.00	Electricity	1.09
\$ 2,750.00	Altar Supplies (wafers, wine, candle oil/wicks, incense, dry cleaning for linens & vestments)	1.01
\$ 2,640.00	Advertising/Printing	0.97
\$ 1,980.00	Property/Liability Insurance	0.73
\$ 1,815.00	Telephone/Internet	0.67
\$ 1,650.00	Office Admin. Expenses	0.61
\$ 1,650.00	Copier	0.61
\$ 1,320.00	Web Services	0.49
\$ 1,306.80	Streaming Service	0.48
\$ 1,100.00	Repair/Maintenance	0.41
\$ 1,100.00	Facility Supplies (toilet paper, trash bags, paper towels, batteries, etc.)	0.41
\$ 462.00	Pest Control	0.17
\$ 220.00	Postage	0.08

## What's It Going to Take to Achieve Parish Status?

### Standing on Our Own Two Feet Requires Financial Independence

*For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? (Luke 14:28)*

- A parish is defined as a self-supporting congregation under a full-time rector, as opposed to a mission or other congregation under a vicar. St. Paul's is not self-supporting, and therefore is not a parish.
- Parish status is achieved when St. Paul's can sustain itself financially without help from the diocese.
- Standing on our own two feet will take years, but if we don't start now, we will not have a leg to stand on. How quickly we move from mission to parish will rest solely on our ability to maintain existing membership and attract new members.

**Based on our current financial situation and projecting a 3% increase in income needed per year coupled with our decreasing diocesan support, which goes to zero in 2031, we will need 128 pledging members by 2031. Those 128 pledges will need to equal the average pledge of \$2715. If we achieve 128 pledging members prior to 2031, we could apply for parish status sooner.**

### **What about Membership?**

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12)*

#### **Membership in Good Standing in the Episcopal Church**

- Regular attendance in worship, having taken Communion at least three times per year.
- Active participation in ministries and the life of the church.
- Submission and fulfilment of yearly pledge.
- If you retain membership at another Episcopal Church, please formally transfer your membership through St. Paul's office administration.



- A mission church must grow its body and be intentional about it.
- To date, St. Paul's has been passively increasing membership. Passive growth will not sustain a mission church on the journey to becoming a parish.
- If you have been coming to St. Paul's for several months or more, and consider St. Paul's as your spiritual home, we ask you to make a formal commitment to membership.

***"...How are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" –Romans 10:15***

If we are to answer God's call to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world, we must, with a sense of urgency, stand on our own two feet. We must straighten our legs, not when the diocesan funding runs out; let us straighten our legs today and put one foot in front of the other toward self-sufficiency. Only in a position of sustained financial independence will St. Paul's become a spiritual home and spiritual resource for all now, and for generations to come.

## *Call to Action: What Can You Do Now?*

- **Become a formal pledging member (a giver of record) of St. Paul's**—please complete your 2023 pledge form. Even if you give regularly, without being giver of record, St. Paul's can only build our budget on committed giving.
- **Prayerfully discern your existing financial commitment to St. Paul's.** Is it possible to increase your pledge?
- **Get involved in the life of St. Paul's;** ensuring the integrity of worship and sound ministries of the church is a shared responsibility. We stand on our own two feet by offering many shoulders.
- **Share the Good News of St. Paul's**—Invite your neighbor and strangers!
- **Pray for St. Paul's and for one another.**



### **A Daily Prayer for the Church Planters of St. Paul's Episcopal Church\***

O God the Creator and ruler of all things, your reign grows like a mustard seed into abundant life: Bless those who plant and tend the new life of your Church, that it may become a place of welcome, a refuge of healing, a school for souls, and a life-giving spring; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ, our strength and our salvation.

*Amen.*

*\*2003 Book of Occasional Services, p. 249*

### **Mother Adrienne Hymes and St. Paul's Bishop's Committee Thank You for Your Commitment to OUR Growing Faith Community**

The Rev. Adrienne R. Hymes, Vicar  
Dr. Owen O. Roach, DBA, Treasurer  
Ms. Christine O'Donnell, Junior Warden  
Mr. LeGrand Jones

Dr. Jeanette Rollins, Senior Warden  
Mrs. Sue Moshier, Secretary  
Ms. Carolyn Frances  
Mr. Hugh Shannon