



Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

Dear Friends,

Faith is a journey we make together, it is not a solo expedition. Only in walking together do we make real progress toward a deeper understanding of God. We encourage others along the way, help each other up when we stumble and come together to bring new travelers to the path—and the church is where we find both companions and sustenance for the trip.

On Sunday, October 8th, Saint Mark's embarked on our annual giving campaign with the theme, *Journey to Generosity*—a message that reminds us how our individual spiritual growth and the church's mission are both dependent upon our coming together.

To that end, this year we have had the opportunity to hear from fellow parishioners during our Sunday worship services about how the work of Saint Mark's various ministries, and their participation in them, carries them further along their own spiritual journeys and how our own parish's ministries are part of the embodiment of the broader Christian church's mission in the world.

These stories will be an inspiration to us, and a challenge, because the truth they all bear is that none of them would be possible without the generosity of the members of our parish. That generosity is a demonstration of thanks to God for blessings, as well as a gift to one another—a gift that makes possible the church and the opportunities for spiritual growth from which we all benefit.

As we move further down the road together in our spiritual journeys, I challenge us to see our journeys to generosity as a journey to one another as fellow Christians—and then to take a step closer together as an act of greater service to our fellow parishioners. As we meet this challenge together, we are reminded of the many blessings we share—the ministry

to our children and young adults of Christopher Richardson, the uplifting sounds of our choirs and organ and even the simple gift of the church building where we and so many members of our community come together throughout the week. We magnify these blessings, and many others our generosity makes possible every year, when we move further down the road in our journey to generosity.

In the next few days will receive a 2018 pledge commitment card, and an invitation to two special stewardship events. Over the next several weeks, I invite you to prayerfully consider how you can move further down the road in your personal journey to generosity and then make a pledge that reflects your steps forward.

I'm personally grateful for the support you all give me every day in my own spiritual journey and I look forward to continuing that walk with you in the coming year.

Blessings and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul St. Germain".

Paul St. Germain (The Rev. Dr.)
Rector

“Put simply, life is a God-given opportunity to become who we are, to affirm our own true spiritual nature, claim our truth, appropriate and integrate the reality of our being, but most of all, to say ‘Yes’ to the One who calls us the Beloved.”

Henri J.M. Nouwen