

SHINING OUR LIGHT

October 6, 2022

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

Dear St. Paul's Family,

Every day we are called to share God's light and love as individuals and as a community of faith. It's a powerful calling, one that invites us to openly receive God's love and then freely and joyfully share it with all. When we are *Shining Our Light*, we are living into God's dream for ourselves, our church, and our world.

As your stewardship team, we are inspired by the many ways that God's love shines through St. Paul's. The glorious light that emanates from within our sacred space brings us together for worship and then sends us out to be the hearts and hands of Christ. We are a generous group, giving our time and talent to sing in the choir, assist at our services, and care for our buildings and grounds. We serve on administrative and planning committees, volunteer at community organizations, and offer our prayers and presence to those in need. Our hospitality and parish life teams welcome all and celebrate God's love with food, fellowship, and a whole lot of fun!

Thanks to you our parish is strong and flourishing. Last year we added some 30 new households, and your generous support of the 2022 Annual Pledge Campaign provided close to \$507,000 to fund the daily operations of our church and its ministries. As we look to the future, we believe that God has wonderful things planned for St. Paul's. We are a shining beacon at the corner of 16th and Market, growing and evolving with the expanding needs of our parish and the greater Wilmington community. In a world that needs hope, we are called to be the light.

In the next two weeks, you will receive 2023 pledge materials from Father Lee. Please begin to consider prayerfully what God is calling you to give in support of St. Paul's mission and ministries. Our collective pledges made in the fall allow the finance team to develop an operating budget for the upcoming calendar year. Together, let's give abundantly and shine our light for all the world to see and experience the truly transformative power of God's love.

In love and thanksgiving,

Your Stewardship Team

Karen Day, Jack McElroy, Anne O'Dell, and Merry Ann Wright

Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.