

Stewardship Minute, October 23, 2022

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Good morning St. Paul's.

We all know what an earworm is, a tune that for some reason just keeps on playing in your head. That's what happened to me once I saw the theme for this year's Annual Stewardship Campaign, "Shining Our Light". I hadn't thought of this song in many years, but now I keep hearing Odetta singing the famous civil rights ballad of the 1960s, "This Little Light of Mine". Some of you may remember how it goes: "This little light of mine, I'm goin' let it shine....Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine".

So what does that have to do with stewardship? Within the next few days we all will have received the annual pledge mailing from St. Paul's. In that packet, Fr. Caleb's letter reminds us of the vision he laid out for us when he arrived a little over a year ago. The most foundational piece of that vision is building us up as the people of God, enabled to see God's redeeming light in ourselves and then to go outside the walls and let that light shine out into a world that can be very dark at times.

The mailing also contains a pledge card. We can make a commitment to let the light shine in many ways. We can use our time and talents to shine that light within our St. Paul's community, and also outside the doors in the larger communities of this neighborhood, city, county, and beyond. This mission requires financial support as well. So, please think prayerfully about your pledge for 2023, and then complete the pledge card. If you need one, there are cards available in the narthex and by the red doors leading to the parking lot. Once you have completed the card, you can either put it in the collection plate on Sunday morning or mail it to the church. You can even very easily make your pledge online at the St. Paul's website. There is a time-sensitive element to this as well. The Stewardship team is hoping that they will have received your pledge within the next 3 weeks. That pledge commitment will give the Vestry and Fr. Caleb the information they will need by mid-November to prayerfully put together a budget for 2023 that will really and truly let God's light shine in this building and beyond. So to paraphrase the song "We're goin' to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine".

Thank you for your presence here at St. Paul's!