

Dear Friends of St. Paul's October 2026

At the beginning of the Bible, the book of Genesis tells us that everything on earth was created by God in love. At the baptism of Jesus in Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist tell the crowd that they must share what they have. Matthew's Gospel tells us that whenever we share with those most in need we are sharing with Jesus himself. These three things are the essence of stewardship: the knowledge that what we have is a gift from God, that we are called to share it with others, and that when we do we are sharing with Jesus himself.

Although Stewardship is most often talked about as something we do as individual it is important to recognise that it is also an important part of our life as a community. After all, God doesn't just bless individuals, St. Paul's has also received many gifts from God.

Our focus for this year's Stewardship campaign is on those things that we do as a community to share God's blessings with the world. They include sharing our building with groups who need space to meet at a low cost, contributing to the food bank, helping those who come to our door in need, and providing friendship and community for those who are lonely to name a few. None of these things could happen without you and your stewardship of your time, talent and treasure.

I invite you to take time in this season to celebrate the ways that St. Paul's lives out it's commitment to be good stewards of God's gifts and to discern the ways that you can be a part of those ministries.

Remember that when we serve those who are the most vulnerable we serve Jesus.

In Christ, Rev. Cordelia

Checking-in with Stewardship (*practical ways to love Jesus*)

Matthew 25:34-40 Jesus said: Come, you that are blessed by my Father,...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

As Rev Cordelia has written, the essence of Stewardship resides in the abundance of God's gifts (our resources), in looking beyond ourselves to the needs of others and returning the love that Jesus has lavished on us by loving and serving others.

St Paul's is a relatively small community but size or age does not appear to be a major concern of God's. Jesus took 5 loaves and 2 fishes and fed 5000 people with food to spare! We only need to start with faith in God's love and hearts enlivened by His Spirit.

How has St Paul's shared God's blessings in 2026? Check out your Newsflash over the next 4 weeks and celebrate some of the ways St Paul's is serving. Whether it be through our rental space policies, through our commitment to the local food bank,

through the Benevolent Fund and Christmas Family baskets programs or through groups that offer acceptance, friendship and a sense of community the Spirit is here and active.

Every time we involve ourselves in ministry we show our love for Jesus. There is a place for each one of us here in ministries at St Paul's – how will we love Jesus?

Stewardship

Financial Update

Financially, St. Paul's has been blessed again this year. We received an unexpected and very generous contribution of \$100,000 from St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church. The funds have been invested and will be used to fund future operations and activities. We extend our gratitude to everyone who has made a contribution in support of our church.

To the end of September, we have incurred a deficit of (\$77,600), excluding the \$100,000 gift, which is higher than budget. This result is largely due to somewhat lower givings, an increase in property expenses and the cancellation of a planned summer camp by an outside organization. The bank balance at September 30th was \$44,896.

The Capital Fund continues to be well supported. Capital projects completed this year include new sanctuary lighting, plumbing and furnace upgrades and repainting of the lines in the parking lot.

We expect the deficit to increase by year end. We know that everyone is impacted financially by the current economic situation, but we ask that you keep St. Paul's in your hearts and minds when making your spending decisions.

Included in this package, is a Letter of Intent which gives everyone an opportunity to consider how they can best support St. Paul's going forward. The commitment is not binding in anyway and can be changed at any time. It provides an indication of anticipated financial support and is very helpful in the budgeting process. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact our envelope steward, Dorothy Wilkins at 905-427-9067 or at dtwilkins@bell.net. . A dedication of these commitments will take place on November 15, 2026.

Just a reminder, givings can be made either through the regular pew envelopes or the special monthly envelopes, via Pay Pal on our website at www.stpaulsajax.org or through PAR (pre-authorized remittance). Givings can also be mailed or dropped off at the church.

We thank everyone for their continued support and commitment to St. Paul's.

God bless

Finance Committee



Thank you for everything you have done
and everything you do in Jesus' name.

Checking-In With Stewardship

(Practical Ways to Love Jesus)

2026



ST. PAUL'S

United Church, Ajax

**the Church with the open arms*

*We gather to experience, show and share the
difference God's Love in Christ makes in our lives.
We strive to be a people growing spiritually, while
reaching out to others in response to Christ*