



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1066 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228 + www.stpaulspgh.org + 412-531-7153

October 2021

Dear Friend:

We have been walking a path of uncertainty. What do we do when we can't see the path ahead of us? A prayer by Thomas Merton begins, *"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end."*

Merton wrote this in 1956. It couldn't have been more prescient. Today we are travelling through the twin wildernesses of pandemic and uncertainty. We clear a path as best we know how, hoping that it leads us and our community towards health and safety. We listen hard for God's call. We hear it, we think, but indistinctly. We walk towards the call, but we are still unsure.

"But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you....," Merton continues. Maybe not knowing is okay, maybe trying is good enough. This is profoundly hopeful. It removes the burden of doing the "right thing." We are simply called to do God's will — love our neighbor.

This is how St. Paul's has been navigating through this wilderness: services and small group meetings in-person, when possible, on-line when necessary. We have joined together for Bible study in the tent, Sunday School and EYC outside, choir with masks. We have worshiped sitting on the green tape in the pews, having communion brought to us (or delivered to our homes). We have prepared lunches for kids, assisted refugees, explored racism through Sacred Ground, gone on Holy Spirit Walks. We have been clearing a path.

"Therefore I will trust you always.... I will not fear, for you are ever with me." Merton started this prayer admitting the limited faith he has in himself. He ends it with unconditional faith in God. It is his *desire* to please God that creates his path out of the wilderness of self-doubt.

In this Stewardship season, will you prayerfully consider a pledge to St. Paul's? We will clear a path through the wilderness together, with God's help and with yours.

God Bless,

John Sheehan and Frank Horrigan, Vestry and Co-chairs of Stewardship Commission

Stewardship Commission:

Ginny Barnicoat, Senior Warden
Domenique Comparetto
The Rev. Laura Di Panfilo

Freja Dickson-LaPrade
The Rev. Noah Evans, Rector
Amanda Harris
Ann McStay

Pam Ryan, Junior Warden
Preston Shimer
Jan Toth, Treasurer