

Stewardship of the Future

The future belongs to those who are creative, innovative, and original, yet who at the same time have the ability to allow their creations to evolve beyond anything they could have imagined. Stewardship, in its highest form, is tapping into the greatest potential waiting to unfold, and letting that potential show us the way forward. Stewards of the future live in service of that ever-evolving potential.



It all starts with a dream, a spark, an idea.

The community of St. Paul's formed 150 years ago as a result of faithful stewards of God's gifts following through on an idea. The idea was to establish a place where the faith of the small farming community of Hazeldean could flourish. James and Alice Mulligan donated land for this purpose in 1873, setting aside the place which became a church called St. Paul's. The Mulligans did the same in 1958, allowing the expansion of parking to accommodate the growing congregation. Their act of stewardship is why we are able today to have a place of worship and a community in which to thrive.

Stewardship is a response to the mission of God. When we invite people into discipleship and baptism, we also invite them into the practices of faithful stewardship. Those practices are properly framed in terms of whether or not they contribute to what God desires in and for the life of His world.

In the rich tapestry of Christian traditions, Anglicanism stands out as a beacon of inclusivity, intellectual rigor, and reverence for tradition. Rooted in the Church of England's history, Anglicanism has evolved into a diverse global communion that grapples with contemporary issues while staying true to its foundational principles. Central to our theology is the concept of stewardship – the responsible management of and care for God's creation and the gifts He gives us. This is a principle that extends not only to the present, but also to future generations.

As we enter our 150th year as a parish, we naturally look back to the ways in which our forebears were good stewards. Stewardship of the future continues this good work, ensuring that future generations enjoy the fruits of our labours, just as we enjoy the fruits of generations past. Like theirs, our stewardship is multifaceted, encompassing environmental concerns, social justice, ethical decision-making, and spiritual formation. At its core lies a profound sense of interconnectedness between humanity, the Earth, and the divine. This interconnectedness forms the basis for Anglicans' commitment to preserving and nurturing the world for generations to come.

Here at St. Paul's, we understand that this is not just a calling for world leaders: it is a calling for us as a local community. Being God's stewards means that we are called to issues of social justice and equity in our own neighbourhoods. Inspired by Jesus' teachings on love, compassion, and justice, we are called to actively engage in addressing systemic injustices such as poverty, racism, and inequality. Through initiatives such as community outreach programs, affordable housing projects,

and advocacy for fair labour practices, our parish is striving to build a more just and equitable society for future generations.

The ethos of "inherit and invest" encapsulates the dual responsibilities of stewardship: to receive and faithfully transmit the inheritance of faith, wisdom, and tradition passed down through generations, and to actively invest in shaping a future characterized by justice, compassion, and sustainability. By embracing these principles, we demonstrate our commitment to honouring the past, serving the present, and stewarding the future for the glory of God and the flourishing of all creation.

Investment underscores the proactive and intentional actions taken by individuals and communities to secure a better future for generations to come. Investing in the future involves allocating resources, time, and energy toward initiatives that promote the common good, foster human flourishing, and safeguard the integrity of creation. This investment encompasses a wide range of endeavours, including education, environmental conservation, social justice advocacy, and spiritual formation.

One of these investments is St. Paul's commitment to the education of children and youth, recognizing them as inheritors of the faith and agents of change in society. We invest in environmental sustainability, supporting initiatives that protect ecosystems, mitigate climate change, and promote sustainable living practices. We are also to invest in social justice, advocating for the rights and dignity of marginalized communities, and working to dismantle systems of oppression and inequality. More importantly, we are called to invest in spiritual formation, nurturing the faith and discipleship of individuals of all ages, equipping them to carry forward the mission of the church in the world. By passing on the rich theological heritage of our faith to successive generations, we ensure that future leaders are equipped to navigate the complexities of the modern world, while remaining grounded in their faith.

Grounded in the belief that all of creation belongs to God, we are to responsibly care for the Earth, promote social justice, make ethical decisions, and nurture the spiritual life of present and future generations. By embracing this holistic vision of stewardship, we embody our commitment to leaving a positive legacy for the future, guided by the principles of love, justice, and compassion. In so doing, we honour the sacrifice and legacy from our St. Paul's faithful stewards of yesteryear by paying it forward and leaving our legacy of faith to those who will follow us.

Your Stewardship Team: Mark Stalter, Tracy Albert, Francis Christensen, and Kristen VanderHoek