

St. Paul's Time and Talent Questionnaire

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:10

We, as the Church, are called to offer ourselves to God, each other, and the world around us by living as a gift of God's love. A gift, an offering, like that of Jesus Christ, who gave himself for the life of the world. Our church family gives so much to each of us—community, stability, hope, a place to call home. But our church, really, is *us*—each one of us making possible that community, making possible a stable home of welcome and embrace of others. Though we receive so much from our life together, we are not just beneficiaries, we do not just take, we give. And each of us has so much to offer with our unique passions, gifts, and abilities, whatever they may be. The needs of our church and the surrounding community are great, but our own need to give, to serve, and make a meaningful contribution to each other's lives is just as great. We serve because others are in need of that service, and we serve because it's who we are; because being a Christian, being human, involves giving and serving in love.

Everyone in our community is asked to complete this questionnaire. These questions are designed to help us all discern how we can best participate in and contribute to our life together, whether it be in our communal worship, in caring for those in need, in helping maintain our buildings, or through involvement in any number of particular ministries in and around our community. The point is, only you are you, and only you can offer what you have to give. Only you can bless this church family in the ways that you can.

As you indicate your gifts and passions through this survey, a fellow parishioner will reach out to let you know about specific opportunities that correspond with those gifts and passions and answer any questions you may have. Sometimes we want to step up but simply don't know where to begin. We hope this is a way of giving us all have a clearer path forward.

When you have completed this survey, please return the form by leaving it on the bulletin table at the back of the church, mailing to: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 166 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950, or returning the electronic version sent out to the parish by email to John Neale (email address below).

If you have any questions, please contact John Neale at john.h.neale@comcast.net or 978-462-9609.

Please circle anything you are drawn to personally

Do you have a deep connection to our communal worship? There are many ways you can help enrich it, including but not limited to:

- Singing (Choir) or playing instruments
- Preparing the church for our services (Altar Guild)
- Reading (Lectors)
- Assisting in the liturgy (Acolytes/servers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers)
- Welcoming (Ushers/Greeters)
- Prayer for others (Prayers for Healing and Wholeness)

Do you find solace and refuge in our beautiful buildings and grounds, or have a particular appreciation for them? You can contribute by carrying out tasks or helping to organize them, including:

- Repairs and general maintenance
- Painting
- Gardening
- Enhancements to our indoor and outdoor space

Are you gifted in communication and do you thrive on connecting others to things that matter? There are many ways to serve that help bring us together, including:

- Publicity and press releases
- Newsletters
- Website
- Social Media

Would you enjoy working with a team of people to help record and livestream services and special events? Technical expertise is not a requirement, just a concern to keep those who can't be present in our building connected and included.

- Audio/Video
- YouTube posting

Do you have a deep sense of compassion and empathy for those in need of companionship and care? There are countless, simple ways to support others through pastoral care.

- Visiting and/or calling shut-ins
- Hospital visits
- Sending cards
- Providing rides to parishioners
- Delivering altar flowers to shut-ins
- Knitting prayer shawls

Do you have a passion for serving those in need? There are opportunities to volunteer, including:

- Our Among Friends meal program—help with preparing and delivering meals
- Helping meet daily needs of Afghan Evacuee families in Newburyport

Are you passionate about spending time with others, developing friendships, and helping others grow in relationship with each other? You can support our parish community by helping to organize:

- Coffee hours after the Sunday Eucharist
- Potlucks, Picnics, Barbecues
- Fall Family Fun Fair
- Other events and regular activities

St. Paul's sees support for the arts as an essential part of our parish. We host concerts, theater, and other art events. There are many ways to support these performances and help St. Paul's serve local artists, such as:

- Set-up/clean-up at events
- Greet others at performances
- Run the ticket booth
- If you are in the artistic community yourself, help network and make connections with other artists for future events

Are you driven to develop your own spiritual formation and contribute to the growth of others? There are numerous ways to enrich the faith of our community, including:

- Children, youth, and adult formation
- Baptism and Confirmation preparation

Are you energized by meeting new people, making them feel welcome, and/or helping them participate in the St. Paul's community? You can contribute by:

- Welcoming newcomers
- Arranging newcomers' get-togethers

Are you an encourager and motivator who can help inspire others to explore how they can give and serve in our community? You can serve in this way through:

- Annual stewardship campaign
- Connecting parishioners to ministries and volunteer opportunities

Are you gifted with a financial background and can assist in managing our church's finances? There are ways for you to utilize your experience in service of our church community:

- Accounting and financial management
- Grant writing

Do you have other gifts and passions not mentioned here that could enrich our life together? Are there other areas of interest or ministries not mentioned in this form? What gifts will you offer to St. Paul's and our community?

Please add any additional comments you wish to make.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire. As we seek to serve Christ, one another, and our world, your unique gifts are valued and needed, and we're eager to see how God can use each one of us through the ministry of St. Paul's.

Full Name: _____

Email: _____

Cell: _____ Home: _____