

Good morning, I am Lois Basil. A few months ago the Stewardship taskforce asked me if I would consider sharing my journey at St Pauls with you. When I learned of the date that I would be speaking, I was very excited because I was sure that with the Cubs playing in Game 4 of the World Series against Anaheim, I could link their success to hope and the importance of believing in the impossible to encourage all of us to support St Pauls with a pledge, after all if the Cubs can finally get to the World Series we at St Pauls can certainly meet our pledge goals.

What a difference 6 weeks has made, not only are my beloved Cubs not in the World Series we are, in the words of Alan Greenspan, in the midst of a financial Tsunami.

So what do we as a church community do now? How can I consider increasing my financial support to this church when all indicators are pointing to very rough waters ahead?

Well, I believe that it is important to remember how the founding families of this congregation responded when faced with adversity and financial uncertainty; they put their money where their faith was!

I cannot imagine where our family would be without St Pauls. Seeing Greg and Hannah off on their work trips with the JAYS, watching Hope and her class of confirmands stay up all night here at the Church and then enjoy a 6 mile walk to help support hunger programs, singing in the choir, making lunches with Sarah's sisters or doing the hokey pokey at Oktoberfest. St Pauls is the framework that defines our lives.

This is the place where with God's help we love and care for one another, we provide a spiritual foundation for our children, this is a place where all are welcome, a place where we work hard to accept differences and to find common ground. I know of no better place to take my questions, my fears, my hopes and my dreams than St Pauls.

This community is full of the most extraordinary people, every day all of you are living lives of people of faith and I know the difficult choices that you are faced with. We are facing them ourselves. But I can't imagine facing any challenge without the support of this Church and I believe that now more than ever St Pauls needs our financial support.

If you haven't already, please consider making your pledge today. I believe the St Pauls IS a Great Place to Grow!