

Vestry Setting New Goals

By Steve Carnell

Our new vestry is already focused on a number of projects and challenges in 2022. We're continuing our efforts to reactivate ministries that were halted or scaled back during the peak of the pandemic. We're moving forward with more improvements to our campus facilities and grounds. And we're actively participating in the forthcoming selection of a new bishop for our diocese.

Our vestry is focused above all on finding ways to grow our impact in our community—reaching out to others in need and especially those who don't have a church home. We truly believe that St. Paul's is a loving congregation filled with people who care and want to make a difference.

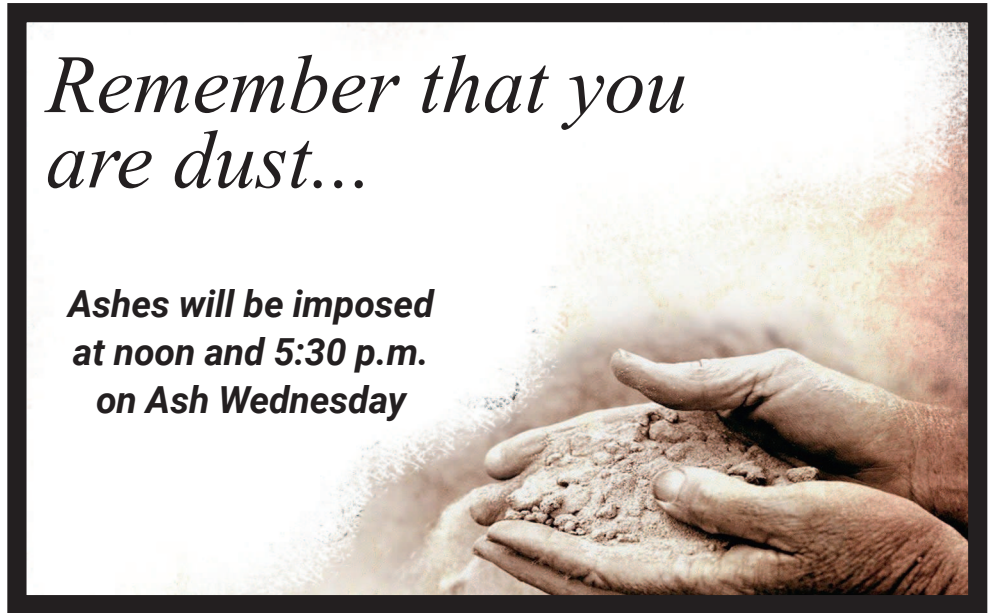
Our vestry will be setting some formal goals next month. In the meantime, if you have any thoughts or suggestions, please share them with any of our vestry members.

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*Remember that you
are dust...*

**Ashes will be imposed
at noon and 5:30 p.m.
on Ash Wednesday**



What was life like In the time of Jesus?

Ever wonder what life was like in Jesus's time? Ever consider what David's royal court must have been like? Join us during Lent for an exploration of the sociology and anthropology of the Bible era.

We will begin by exploring the wide expanse of time covered in the Old Testament and the many changes that occurred during the centuries as the Hebrews moved from a nomadic people to city dwellers. Then we will dive into what it was like to live in Jerusalem during the Roman era.

In what kind of houses did our forebears in the faith reside? What was transportation like? What did they eat? How did an obscure town in a distant Roman province become a thriving economic, political

and religious capital? These and many other topics will be explored.

Wednesdays, March 9-April 13, 2022, 6:30 p.m. in the Library.



Masks or not?

As we await word from Bishop Smith, who sets such rules, aren't you glad some folks, such as the parishioner above, wear masks? Watch the Weekly Update and website for the latest in masking regulations. Stay safe, everyone!

The goal is renewal

I look at Lent as a season of reflection, renewal and preparation. When I have been able, this is the time I would set aside for a retreat or a planned exercise of spiritual renewal. I would look for a book, a program or a guide to help me on my journey. It has consisted of reading a book by Thomas Merton or Henri Nouwen. One year I read a book by Bishop Gene Robinson. I have found an affinity for such texts as The Poverty Bible and our very own Holy Women, Holy Men. I have been blessed to be able to spend the Triduum in silent retreat and reflection. The idea of all this is to rediscover and recommit to my faith, my love and trust in our God and in our Savior Jesus Christ.

Many people try to accomplish this by the age-old tradition of joining in the suffering and journey of Jesus by 'giving something up'. A simple practice that enjoins us to suffer in a small way to appreciate and perhaps understand the magnitude of the life and suffering of the God become man that we celebrate in the Feast of the Incarnation. Perhaps a way to celebrate Lent more fully than might be to enter into our own humanity as Jesus did for us. Jesus was fully human as we acknowledge by our Creed. Jesus was a real human being with all that means. Can we appreciate our own humanity by seeing how Jesus lived? Jesus did not shrink from life but entered fully into every aspect of human life. He died for us but also gave us a template by his daily life on how we can be holy women and holy men ourselves.

What examples do we have of his humanity? Scripture has quite a few examples that we could explore as part of our preparation for Easter. I invite you do so and I will list a few that have touched me and helped me think about my own humanity.

**By
Dan
Fischer**



John 8:7. People have a penchant to say things like 'it's in God's hands'. The fact is though, we often want to see our own version of justice and might not like to really consider how God feels about it. Here in John, I have to look at how Jesus meted out justice. How did Jesus handle the adulterous woman? By the way, there was probably an adulterous man who should appear in that story as well. Nothing like a good stoning to put the fear of God into people, eh? Yet that is not what Jesus calls for.

'Let he who is without sin cast the first stone'. No ands, ifs or buts.

The money changers (multiple accounts, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). How human a reaction it is for Jesus to be insensed by seeing his Father's house being defiled by commerce and profiteering. How human to get angry, a truly human emotion we all have experienced. What message are we to derive from Jesus overturning tables and driving

people out of the Temple? It would be arrogance on my part to suggest a full meaning. I am not sure how far beyond righteous indignation I would go. I do know that I am comforted knowing that Jesus had the same emotions that I feel. That alone is food for thought.

John 11:35. No matter which Bible you read or translation you prefer, there is no doubt about the humanity Jesus shows in this passage. The words "groaning" and "weeping" are human words we have intimate knowledge of when someone we love has died. Jesus weeps at the death of Lazarus. There is something more here too. We don't weep or groan when we hear about a stranger's death. We might be sad, we feel empathy but the acts and feelings of grief are associated with someone we love, a friend, a family member. Weeping is for someone close. I point this out so we can recognize that Jesus held strong human bonds just like us, truly human. That too is something to think about.

There are many such examples in Scripture about the humanity of Jesus. Lent can be a time when we explore and look deeply at our own humanity as a means of Lenten preparation. We can still 'give something up' for Lent. We can still attend a class, read a spiritual book, go on retreat, but our goal is reflection, renewal and preparation for Easter.

Reflect & connect!

Steve Carnell reports that Wednesday daytime is favored by those wishing to join in discussions about Fr. Tom's sermons during Lent.

He hopes you will approach him with a preferred time so he can communicate the facts to all who have signed up.

The plan is to meet Wednesdays beginning March 9 and running through April 13.

Helping pets, and their owners, too

By Steve Carnell

Do you love animals? Or are you a “people person”? Or maybe both?

Well then—we may have a great ministry opportunity for you!

Phyllis and Brad Estes have attended St. Paul’s for many years. During their time here, they have played an active role in a community outreach that cares for cats, dogs and even their owners.

Back in 1982, Phyllis was one of a small contingent of volunteers who helped clean cages at Collier County’s old animal shelter facility off Orange Blossom Drive. Eventually, the group formed a not for profit corporation known as Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA).

Over the years, VSA has grown into a vibrant animal rescue group that pursues this mission:

- Rescuing homeless cats and dogs and finding homes for them
- Supporting efforts to control local cat and dog populations
- Keeping domestic animals healthy
- Promoting responsible pet ownership and making it affordable

VSA fulfills this mission in a number of ways including providing foster care for orphan kittens from birth; finding them loving homes; raising funds to help families in Collier County to adopt, spay/neuter and vaccinate their animals. And they provide blankets and other goods to pet owners in need.

VSA brings cats and people together every day by posting information about cats available for adoption on their web site (vsarescue.org). And they sponsor adoption events on Saturdays



Phyllis and Brad Estes

at the PetSmart at 2255 Pine Ridge Road. You can call Phyllis at 239-290-6274 to set up an appointment or to meet one of their cats or kittens.

VSA holds shot clinics for cats and dogs three times a year. Licensed veterinarians provide low cost/no cost services including spay/neuter procedures, rabies shots and deworming. Their next shot clinic is scheduled for this coming Saturday, March 5 from Noon to 3:30 at Max Hasse Community Park, 3390 Golden Gate Blvd W.

Phyllis says there’s a number of ways you can get involved with VSA...

- You can volunteer at the shot clinics and/or the adoption events; or

ics and/or the adoption events; or

- You can provide a temporary foster home for orphan kittens; or
- You can donate funds to help VSA defray their costs.

Phyllis has been doing this for 40 years! Asked what keeps her going with it, she says it’s “The people we help are so grateful”. I think the cats and dogs are too. Phyllis says VSA feels like a ministry and I totally agree.

If you want to know more, please look for Phyllis or Brad at church or give them a call.

Men's Group

Men of the parish meet Monday mornings at 10 to reflect on what it means to be human and other not-so-small talk. Please join us, in Serson Hall.

A new rector arrives

In our last issue, Fr. Karl Bell, St. Paul's first rector, left the parish on September 1, 1971. While interim priests filled in, a calling committee was formed to search for a permanent rector but was unsuccessful. The vestry agreed to place a small notice in *The Living Churchman*, a monthly magazine subscribed to by many Episcopal churches.

Of the more than 50 replies to the "positions available" notice, one especially stood out: the Rev. Larry G. Smellie, then the vicar at St. Alban's Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was 31 years old and a graduate of Defiance College, in Defiance, Ohio, and had studied for the priesthood at Bexley Hall, a theological school at Kenyon College in Ohio. After his ordination, he became a curate at the

**By
Lee
Barron**



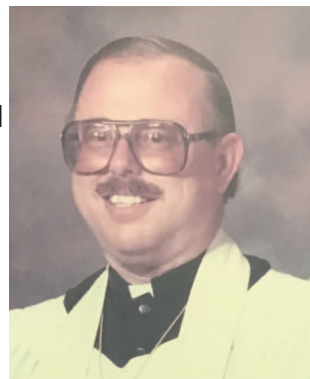
St. Paul's history

Cathedral of St. Paul in Erie, Pa, before going to St. Alban's. He and his wife, Nancy (later changing her name to Susan Joy), had two children, Michael, 4 and Stephen, 2. His keen interest and excellent credentials led to an exchange of letters in which St. Paul's sought more information, however despite the communication, a decision could not be made at St. Paul's without a personal interview. Fr. Smellie spent a three-day visit interviewing here without his wife, as she was newly pregnant, and it was recommended she not travel. (Their daughter, Mary, was born April 4, 1972.) Before flying back to Ft. Wayne, he was issued the call to become the second rector of St. Paul's. He returned home to pray over the call and discuss the possibility of joining St. Paul's with Nancy. Soon he accepted the call agreeing to begin his tenure at St. Paul's on the second Sunday of October 1971.

What he faced upon arrival was almost literally an empty wilderness. The church was alone on Davis Boulevard; no other buildings or residences nearby; Airport Road was practically deserted; at the Glades condominium complex, there was only one completed group of eight condos. Ten years later, Fr. Smellie wrote that then, "You could barely see the church from the highway. The land between was wild scrub land.

Brush fires in the spring were a serious threat. Once the rectory was quickly evacuated as high winds blew flames too close for comfort." Water was a major problem: the well drilled in 1967 was increasingly erratic in providing a steady flow. A tie-in to the city water pipe was now possible but would cost \$2,500, (equivalent to about \$17,354.81 today), an amount not available in the budget. (The following year, the city began to lay pipe to bring water to the church, thus saving the \$2,500 had the church paid for the piping).

Fr. Smellie conducted his first service at St. Paul's with more than capacity attendance on Sunday, Oct. 10, 1971, and led his first vestry meeting two days later. He swiftly became involved in the pledge drive for 1972 as well as in the landscaping, cleaning, maintenance, and unfortunately, the occasional vandalism in this isolated area. As often occurs in the transition to a new rector, there was a fall-off in pledging that fall; it was less than was needed to meet the budget, even though total pledges were slightly higher than in 1971. Some families had not renewed their pledge; although no follow-up letter was sent to them, a large barometer was erected in front of the church indicating the difference between budget needs and amounts pledged. Also, a sign identifying St. Paul's location was placed near the intersection of Davis Boulevard and Tamiami Trail. (The following year



St. Paul's Pathways
EPISCOPAL CHURCH NAPLES, FL

Pathways is published periodically by and for members and friends of St. Paul's. Aside from the few copies printed by the office and mailed to those without access to computers, no church funds are used in its production.

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We would be very happy to add your name to this list!

(See A new rector, next page)



Tootie Steineger, a faithful 10 o'clock worshipper, was given a St. Paul's cross upon her 95th birthday in January. Fr. Tom continued what is now a tradition at St. Paul's, begun with Peggy Anson and Evie Dickenson, both now resting in peace with our Lord.

A new rector (from Page 4)

the city advised the sign was on city property without permission and it had to be removed.) On Sunday, January 9, 1972, Fr. Smellie was installed as rector of St. Paul's by Diocesan Bishop Hargrave (who, as suffragan bishop in 1965 when St. Paul's was merely a yet-to-be-formed proposed new mission church, supported by Trinity-By-The-Cove. He served as liaison for the diocese). Later that month, a new senior and junior warden were on the vestry; there were eight Sunday school

teachers (including Mrs. Smellie), and seven members of the altar guild. Unfortunately, sporadic vandalism continued, with a break-in at the church in March: a cruet for private Communion was destroyed and \$10 was taken. Despite this, it was agreed to leave the church doors unlocked.

In 1972 pledges eventually rose, yet along with the weekly plate offerings, barely met the growing needs. How would St. Paul's raise enough to continue to be self-supporting?

Birthday Wish From Fr. Tom

A moment of inspiration hit me at our annual meeting while speaking of our endowment, the Society of Saint Paul's, and its importance for our future. I was expressing how interested I was in growing its balance when the idea hit me. Here's the content of what I said, more or less.

Our endowment has a program called the birthday club. Parishioners are asked to give a birthday gift matching their age to our endowment. This year, in July, I will turn sixty. (Someone spoke up that they should throw me a party) I responded that I really didn't want a party but what I would welcome are \$60 gifts to our endowment.

I am honored that there is a desire to mark my birthday but any gift I would receive would not be as impactful on the lives of others at St. Paul's as a gift to our endowment. So I am shamelessly asking for your consideration of a gift to our endowment, the Society of St Paul's, to mark the culmination of my sixty years of a life of blessings.

Unique Boutique...

Director Donna Nidds is asking for donations of clothing to the boutique, which is open during the Farmers' Market on Saturdays during the season.

"Especially in need of gently used golf attire (men's and women's)", Donna says.

Have you met...

...Peter Lund?

Peter is used to wearing many hats. Currently at Saint Paul's, he wears a baseball cap for mowing the grass on Thursday mornings as part of the God's Gardeners crew.

"I love mowing grass, always have," he said the other day. "As a kid, I paid my college expenses mowing grass in the summers. This is my favorite assignment with God's Gardeners."

If you go to the Saint Paul's Farmers Market, you will see him in another baseball cap to keep the sun off while he collects rent payments from the vendors. He has had this volunteer gig as market manager for three years.

"How did I get this job?" he asked with a grin. "All I did was ask one day if there was a backup to Jeff Page, the former market manager. He had been doing it for ten years and I was just curious. Then one day Father Tom asked if I would do it, Jeff was retiring; he had heard I was interested. Well, how could I say no?"

And finally, no hat needed, he recently had his first meeting as senior warden of Saint Paul's. Already he has some very specific goals: #1, increase the membership at the church especially targeting young families, and #2, build on the outreach efforts in our community and also abroad. His second Masters degree is in City and Regional Planning and he has already mapped out sectors of the city for membership targeting.

He grew up in Farmingdale, NY, (Long Island) and he and his wife, Donna Nidds, first met in third grade. Her mother taught Peter in Sunday school. They reconnected again at their 30th high school reunion and married several years later. They have three grown children and four

By
Jan
Shea



grandchildren ranging in age from 2 to 14. There is a real twinkle in his eye at the mention of the two year old, the only girl.



A life long Episcopalian, he has served as a Eucharistic minister and has worked in the Stephen's Ministry in previous parishes. His first introduction to Saint Paul's was twenty-one years ago when he and Donna were married here. Her parents lived nearby which brought them to Naples. After living in the DC area, Germany and other locations, he retired after 30+ years with the federal government. In 2016 he and Donna became Florida residents and spend time in North Carolina during the summer.

When Peter isn't managing the Farmers' Market or performing as senior warden he can be found mowing the grass at his church, where he and his wife, Donna, were married (service bulletins below)



1 CHRISTMAS	
<i>Please keep silence before the service</i>	
Saturday at 5:00 pm: Holy Eucharist, Rite II	
Opening Acclamation	<i>Prayerbook, page 355</i>
The Collect of the Day, Lessons & Psalm (see insert)	
The Sermon: Fr. Damrosch	
Blessing of the Marriage of Donna Nidds and Peter Lund	page 433
The Prayers	page 429
The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A	page 361
Sunday at 8:00 am: Holy Eucharist, Rite I	
Opening Acclamation	<i>Prayerbook, page 323</i>
The Collect of the Day, Lessons & Psalm (see insert)	
The Sermon: Fr. Reid	
The Prayers of the People, Form I	page 383
The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer I	Page 333
This Week	
Sun.	9:00 am - Coffee Hour, Trinity Hall
	9:30 am - Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am - Christian Education - all ages, Sermon/Trinity Hall



Momma mia! wadda dinner!

By Lee Barron

Kudos to **Mamma Geoghegan** (Van) for coordinating and hosting the recent Parish Italian Dinner in Trinity Hall Feb. 17. It has been two years since our last dinner (that happened to be Italian as well) because that was the day Van fell and broke her ankle.

For those who didn't attend the dinner, wudda night you missed! It was stupendo! The food rolled in, one pan after another of fettuccini alfredo, lasagna, meatballs in sauce (or is that "gravy"?), sausage and peppers, stuffed shells, among other entrees, all accompanied by garlic bread, a roasted pepper pasta salad (I got Father Tom's recipe!), a 10-ingredient pasta salad, and a tossed green salad. The combined aroma of the cooked items would have given Campiello's a run for its money! There was a table with both red and white wine as well a dessert table to rival almost any Italian bakery! The group of about 23 wasted no time in lining up and loading one's plate, sampling many of the offerings and scampering to one's table (draped in red and white checked tablecloths and mini-Italian flags as decorations) to begin the feast!

The hall fell quiet as everyone ate, when Tom Connolly suddenly cried out, "This is great!" Everyone agreed, laughed and applauded – it was all Molto Bene! Judy Allen was spotted scampering from table to table filling any glass that was low with wine while I hawked my 10-ingredient

pasta salad (as I had made enough to solve world hunger). Some snuck back to the banquet tables for a second heaping, it was that good! Nora Broszeit hosted a game in which she sang (in Italian) a song that described an instrument, and if the microphone was placed in front of an audience member, he/she had to imitate the sound of that instrument. Gene Bartley won the chuckle award for the best instrumental sounds to the delight of the audience. Nora then crooned a couple of Italian songs, such as the famed, "O Sole Mio" to a round of rousing applause and cheers.

As the evening came to a close, Van announced there were some leftovers for whomever would like to take a doggie bag home. There was almost nothing left after the extra food was distributed, as it was too good to leave behind. What was most endearing was to see – without being asked - every person stand and

help to clear the tables, fold up tablecloths, remove and store table decorations and paraphernalia, roll and place the folding tables on the cart, wash whatever dishes and pans needed cleaning, sweeping the floors and tidying up the kitchen, although I think Judy Allen was still holding onto a half-full bottle of red wine searching for anyone who at that late time might have had an empty glass to finish up the wine.

It was truly a night of Fellowship, Friendship, Food, and Fun. Anyone who didn't attend, wadda you,, crazy?

Don't miss out on the March Parish Irish Dinner! Look for the date and sign-up sheet at Sunday's Coffee Hour or speak with Van or me, as we can make suggestions of what to bring as a possible potluck item, side-dish, or dessert – it doesn't have to be a big item, we all bring just a little something. (There will be entrees other than corned beef and cabbage.). The more people, the more festivities – singing, music, a gift drawing, etc. (No pot of gold will be offered – you'll have to wait for heaven for that!) So be wearin' yer green and join the fun. Why, there might even be a LEEprechaun sighting!

P.S. I STILL have leftover 10-ingredient pasta salad if anyone wants any...

What about a golf outing?

That's what Joyce Cashin wants to know. The last one we had, pre-Covid, was pretty successful, and Joyce, president of ECW, has been calling courses. They want to know, "how many golfers?"

Please call or approach Joyce with your answer so she can tee this thing up.

Todd big hit; Jodie up next



Jodie DeSalvo

By Lee Barrton

Paul Todd thrilled the sold-out audience Feb. 15 for an evening of 'The Great American Songbook', featuring his son, Paul Todd, Jr. ("PJ"). While Paul worked his magic on the synthesizers and electric organ with PJ occasionally on drums, they together and individually serenaded the crowd with a setlist spanning several generations of music, made famous by such artists as Frank Sinatra ("Come Fly with Me"), Nat King Cole ("Unforgettable"), Paul Anka ("Put Your Head on My Shoulder"), Bob Denver

("Rocky Mountain High"), Barry Manilow ("Mandy"). They also included a couple of show-tunes from Stop the World... ("What Kind of Fool am I?"), Evita ("Don't Cry for Me, Argentina"), and Man of La Mancha ("The Impossible Dream"), among others. While the focus was mostly on PJ's singing talents, Paul often left his position behind his instruments to sing a solo, even at one point stepping to the floor and walking partially up the main aisle with the spotlight on him. (Did I see one woman swoon as he neared?!) The duo occasionally joked about their father-son relationship working together, along with PJ poking fun and comically pulling at his father's blond lush curly locks of hair, and the fact his father was now 60 years of age. "Where has the time gone?" lamented Paul Sr. with a smile - clearly, he has enjoyed his years of performing to the delight of audiences everywhere as well as locally at St. Agnes, where he is music director.

We all have Eleanor Phelps, our Music Director/Choirmaster/Organist to thank for coordinating the event. It is due to her friendship with Paul Sr. over the years that allows us to enjoy his concerts at St. Paul's each year. (No doubt it helps that she substitutes for him at his church when he is away on tour!). Many thanks also to Dick Emerson, Buddy Jackson, Bev Whiteman, and others who helped to make the evening run smoothly.

THE FUN DOESN'T STOP THERE!
On Tuesday, March 22 at 7pm, we will be entertained by Jodie DeSalvo, renowned piano soloist who has played Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, and is a frequent sold-out artist with the Naples Philharmonic. Tickets are \$25 through Eleanor at church Sunday mornings, at the Gift Shop during Farmers' Market, at the Church Office (M-F, 9am-1pm), or through website, SaintPaulsNaples.org. As of this time of publication, masks are required.

Vestry mulls funds changes

Upon the vestry's review of the enabling documents for our endowment, the Society of St Paul's, an amendment was proposed.

We are seeking to balance the concerns that our principle be protected while also allowing access to funds after a catastrophic event, most particularly the ability to pay our deductible after a hurricane strike, if needed.

The original wording is below followed by the proposed amendment.

This information is provided for due diligence and transparency. If you have concerns or thoughts please contact a vestry member. Our hope is to address the amendments at the March 17, 2022, vestry meeting/retreat.

Current language:

can never exceed two percent (2%) of the market value of the corpus of the SOSP Fund at the end of the year prior to the year of distribution and

Proposed change:

can never exceed ten percent (10%) of the market value of the corpus of the SOSP Fund at the end

of the year prior to the year of distribution and

Rationale:

Currently the resolution allows the Vestry to withdraw money from the endowment fund under 2 circumstances. Under our current resolution, up to 2% of the fund balance at the end of the prior year can be withdrawn with some additional limitations. As the fund balance as of 12/31/2020 was \$390,988.72, 2% is \$7,819.77. This amendment would increase the 2% to 10% so that \$39,098.87 could be withdrawn. In all instances there are other limitations on the amount that can be withdrawn, the principal ones being that the fund balance after the withdrawal cannot be below \$300,000 and that the amount withdrawn can not exceed 50% of the unrealized capital gain during the prior year.

The current limitation of under \$8,000 makes withdrawal of money very limited in its use. Increasing the limit to 10% or about \$40,000 will allow the withdrawal of sufficient money to accomplish a task.

No other changes are being proposed at this time.