

*To the Members and Adherents of St. Paul's:*

DEAR FRIENDS,

I take advantage of the Annual Report to express my thankfulness for the cordial welcome you have extended to me as your pastor. Your common sympathy and kindly appreciation enable me to begin another year of my ministry with a grateful and hopeful heart. The attendance at Divine worship has been most encouraging. May this continue, as irregularity or carelessness in this is not only extremely discouraging alike to minister and worshippers, but is almost sure to be followed by a decline in spiritual life and by a loss of Christian influence.

The Wednesday evening services will, I trust, be found a helpful break in the middle of the week's cares and temptations. It is cheering to me that so many young men have responded to my invitation, and that their Association has been revived with good prospects of success. I have a strong desire to gather the young men around me and enlist their active sympathies in the life and work of the Church.

The reports of the Kirk-Session and Trustees demand your careful attention, and I hope we will all do everything in our power to support those who are freely giving valuable time and taking anxious trouble towards the welfare of the congregation. In the matter of our weekly offerings, which the Trustees hope to see largely increased, let us all honestly give as God prospers us, judging not what others can or ought to give, but asking earnestly what *we* can give, and regarding the collection as a by no means unimportant part of the Sabbath worship. May the only rivalry known in our congregation be the beauteous rivalry after whatsoever is a virtue and whatsoever is a praise. On you, to a large extent, depends the welfare of St. Paul's, and by that I mean, not so much the outward success of apparent prosperity, but the truer success of a growing and deepening spiritual life.

"A minister may bring to you the Divine materials out of which the temple of a holy character may be formed; he may point you out the plan of the building and the best way to accomplish the object; but none can build for you. If the edifice is ever to be reared, your own hand must do it. You must build yourselves up in your most holy faith."

Receive with meekness and with prayer and hope that Word which is able to save your souls, and may God's richest blessing rest on our congregation. May the religion alike of pulpit and pew be a religion of spirit rather than of letter, and of conduct as well as creed.

Your affectionate pastor,

JAMES BARCLAY.