

STEWARDSHIP FAQS

What is pledging? Pledging is a covenant made to contribute a certain amount of money over a period of time. Our current stewardship campaign (aka "pledge drive") is asking parishioners to let us know what they will be able to contribute to St. Paul's over 2020 so that we can plan for our mission and ministry in the coming year. It is necessary for us to know how much we will be receiving in pledges so we can prepare a budget for 2020. Pledges can be any amount, usually given periodically (weekly, monthly, quarterly) throughout the year. Some people give a one-time lump sum. All pledges, large and small, are valued as a commitment in faith to our community.

What if I put money in the offering plate – doesn't that take the place of a pledge? Putting money in the offering plate is a wonderful spiritual discipline, but it does not take the place of a pledge. Simply put, it is not possible for the Vestry to plan a budget or operate our Church given the fluctuating and uncertain nature of plate offerings. By making a pledge, you are giving the Vestry the necessary tools to sustain the Church's operations and support its ministries over the course of a year.

What if I can't meet my pledge? Things can happen over a year: job loss, illness, moves. We understand this. In the event your circumstances change, please contact Bob Johnston at rajohnston62@verizon.net or the Rector Noah Evans at noah@stpaulspgh.org, not only to revise your pledge, but in case you might also desire pastoral care and support. We value you no matter how much you give. God honors your faithfulness.

Does St. Paul's receive any financial support from the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh or any other church? St. Paul's supports the Diocese through an assessment based on our operating expenses. The Diocese provides pastoral support to priests, support for young people, and different types of educational programs.

How does St. Paul's meet its expenses? St. Paul's has a budget of approximately \$888,455 which includes salaries and benefits for a full-time rector, two assistant rectors and lay staff, as well as expenses for the building, missions, and education. Annual pledges meet a large portion of the budget. The remainder comes from use of the building, investments and some other sources. Please look over our annual budget if you want to know where the money comes from and how it is spent. It is important to remember that the salaries of our clergy and staff are part of our mission of providing the sacraments of the church, pastoral care, education, and music ministry.

How are financial decisions made at St. Paul's? Financial decisions are made by the vestry of St. Paul's. The vestry is the name for the church's "board of directors." Members are elected to three year terms. Officers include the Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer and Clerk. The vestry meets monthly.

Who needs to pledge? We ask all members to pledge. If you have never pledged before, you can start out with a modest sum. Given on a regular basis over a year, this provides needed support.

Is stewardship just all about money? We value the gifts of time and talent that all of our members give. We value each person who walks in our door as a precious gift.

Are my donations tax deductible? Yes. Per IRS regulations, contributions for each year must be received or postmarked by December 31 of that year in order to receive donation credit for that year's tax purposes.

The Worship Has Ended



The Service Begins



A Letter from the Rector

Over the last number of months, more and more people have been telling me about how they are finding a growing sense of gratitude in their lives. Gratitude for all the small and large ways God has blessed their lives, gratitude for the unconditional love God has for each one of us, and gratitude for their church community. I have come to believe that gratitude is a central practice of our faith. Gratitude transforms our perceptions and attitudes. It also can change our world. As Christians, our acts of service to others are a response to the gifts we have already been given. Acts of gratitude. Our financial giving is an expression of our gratitude to God. Our financial giving allows us to be the hands and feet of Christ growing together in faith and service to the community and the world. What are you grateful for today?

In the Episcopal Church, members of the congregation are asked each year to make a pledge of what they plan to give to the Church for the entire coming year. For some people, especially for those new to the Episcopal Church, making a pledge may be a new experience. My family pledges in order to support the community which we are a part of, and to further its mission of striving to be the Body of Christ in the world. By making a pledge, we are also giving the Vestry and parish leadership the ability to plan for the ministry of the parish in the coming year. We want to see St. Paul's continue to grow in its service to the world in Jesus' name, so we pledge. We love our church, and we love to give to its work.

My prayer is that you will join my family and me in pledging to our parish. And join me in supporting a community that seeks to put our faith into action in the world.

Peace,



The Reverend Noah. H. Evans



Building a Community that Serves

This year, as every year, we at St. Paul's are deeply involved in bringing the heart of God to everyone we meet—being Christ's hands and feet in the world, serving our neighbors who are in need locally and around the globe. With each mission trip, each Sunday School class, each worship service, each meal prepared and delivered, each visit made to the ill and the suffering, each contribution to shelters and orphanages and food pantries and housing programs, we bring Christ's love to our own church family and to the greater community outside our church's doors.

Pledging is a way to ensure that our St. Paul's family continues to spread this love through our town and our region, across our own country and abroad to others. Our committed contributions enable us to maintain our church building and fund the staff, supplies, transportation, equipment and other items that make our programs possible. Every meal prepared by a parishioner is cooked in the undercroft kitchen which pledges and other donations have funded; and every kind of gathering—parish dinners, Nar-Anon and Al-Anon meetings, nursery school sessions, baptisms, confirmations, celebrations of marriage, memorial farewells—can take place in a welcoming, safe setting because of parishioners' steady gifts. Our fulfilled pledges support the bridges St. Paul's is continually building to reach out from the heart of our parish community to a world in need of God's love and care.

Thank you for your support of St. Paul's, for making all these things possible!

