

STEWARDSHIP: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **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 2019 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 2019. 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. You can pledge with your paper pledge card, or online at www.stpaulspgh.org.
2. **What if I can't meet my pledge?** Things can happen over a year: job loss, illness, moves. We understand this. If you find you can't meet your pledge or part of your pledge, please inform the treasurer, Bob Johnston at rajohnston62@verizon.net, (412) 327-9342.
3. **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 and parishes, support for church development, and different types of educational programs.
5. **How does St. Paul's meet its expenses?** St. Paul's has a budget of approximately \$851,000 which includes salaries and benefits for a full-time rector, assistant rector and lay staff, as well as expenses for the building, missions, and education. We hope to add a second Assistant Rector next year as well. 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.
6. **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.
7. **Who needs to pledge?** We ask all
8. **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.
9. **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.



You are Christ's hands in the world Stewardship 2019



St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mt. Lebanon

www.st.paulspgh.org • (412) 531-7153

It's Up To Us!

It seems like every Stewardship Campaign has its own set of challenges.

This year's challenges are the product of an abundance of blessings. We've had more newcomers to St. Paul's than any time in recent memory. We have expanded our Sunday school program. The additional Fellowship and Outreach programs that we initiated in the past year have really taken root, and have a life of their own. These ministries are reflections of the collective personality of this parish. They are some of the ways that we feel called to fulfill God's purpose for us, or maybe they are opportunities to hear the conversation that God is having with us. Listening to, and acting on, those callings is one of the reasons that St. Paul's has such a rich array of ministries.

We rely on each other as we walk our unique spiritual path. Whether it is through music, serving meals at Shepherd's Heart, or being part of the Usher Team, taking part in these activities is richer because we do it with and for one another. We also rely on each other as we provide St. Paul's with the resources to accomplish these ministries. There is no outside financial resource.



Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila

Christ has no body now on earth but yours:

No hands but yours:

No feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out on a hurting world.

Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good.

Yours are the hands with which he is to bless now.

A letter from our Rector, the Rev. Noah H. Evans

In the year and a half my family and I have been with you at St. Paul's, I have seen how the people of St. Paul's truly are seeking to be the hands, feet and heart of God in the world. I see this in the many ways we serve our community through are many Outreach programs, how we seek to mentor and raise our young people in the faith, love to grow in our relationship with God through music, worship and education and how we graciously welcome each individual and family who comes to St. Paul's who is seeking a spiritual home. Together, we are building a community of faith that is the Body of Christ in the world.



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 parish 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 to 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 her work.

My prayer is that pledging will bring you the joy it brings my family and me. Join us in pledging to St. Paul's this year.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Noah H. Evans".

A letter from the Rev. Garrett Yates

I pledge to St. Paul's because we have a promise to share - that God loves you as you are. Of all the messages that can shape my life, this is the one I want to take deepest root. I see this promise lived at St. Paul's.

I was a sophomore in college when I first heard this promise. I went to the priest at my home church in Alabama after a service and admitted, "I'm really struggling to have faith right now, and I kind of don't feel honest receiving communion." She put her hand on my shoulder and without a blink said, "Please keep receiving - the church's meal is less about our faith in God, and more about his faith in us; which includes you." This promise saved my life. And this promise is one that I've seen in our midst here at St. Paul's.

To "pledge" is to make a promise to the church: "I've heard the promises of God, and now I am ready to respond with a promise of my own." People often make contributions to hospitals because that hospital has saved their life, or the life of a loved one. This is how I feel about pledging - I pledge because I feel God's promise of love saved my life.

What inspires you to pledge? How have you heard God's promise to you - to love you, and guide you, and to believe in your life - here at St. Paul's?

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garrett Yates".

