

"My pledge kept the lights on during evening bible study."

Year after year...

"My pledge gave music to the church and worship services all weekend."

your generous spirit...

"My pledge supported a Sunday school teacher and classroom."

has brought life to our church.

"My pledge sent our youth on a mission trip."

We invite you...

"My pledge fed our community."

to grow deeper...

"My pledge brought comfort to the sick."

to connect...

"My pledge supported fellowship events."

to commit...

"My pledge gathered worshipers around the flowers in the garden."

to deepen our roots...

"My pledge welcomed a refugee to her new home."

In the life and the work of St. Paul's.

2024 Giving and Stewardship FAQs

1. What is the Giving and Stewardship Campaign? Each year, St. Paul's asks parishioners to say how much they are going to give the parish over the next year. This is called a pledge. The vestry can then use these pledges to predict how much money St. Paul's will have in its budget over the next year, and they can plan for the next year of bills, worship services, salaries, outreach, and education. Some parishioners set up a recurring gift online -- this counts as a pledge too! St. Paul's relies on parishioners to make a pledge or a recurring gift so that we can keep the lights on, celebrate the Eucharist, work with our community partners, pay staff, and run all the programming that the parish depends on. Your pledge or recurring gift keeps St. Paul's running.

2. 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 or recurring gift. 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 or recurring gift, you are giving the Vestry the necessary tools to sustain the Church's operations and support its ministries over the course of a year.

3. I set up a recurring gift from my credit card or bank account last year. Will that gift continue after the end of the year? Yes, it will continue to withdraw money until you stop it. You can stop the recurring gift from the email alert you receive after each recurring gift (look for an email from Financial Administrator), or you can change the amount of the gift as well. You can also stop or change the gift by calling the church office at (412) 531-7153x10 or email at office@stpaulspgh.org.

4. What if I can't meet my pledge or recurring gift? Things can happen over a year: job loss, illness, moves. We understand this. In the event your circumstances change, please contact David Sharbaugh at davidsharbaugh@gmail.com, or the Rev. Noah Evans at noah@stpaulspgh.org, not only to revise your pledge, but in case you might also need pastoral support. We value you no matter how much you give. God honors your faithfulness.

5. Does St. Paul's receive any financial support from the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh or any other church? No. St. Paul's supports the Diocese through an assessment based on our operating expenses. The Diocese provides pastoral support to priests and different types of educational programs, and develops common ministry across the region.

6. How does St. Paul's meet its expenses? Going in to 2023, St. Paul's had a budget of approximately \$1,043,478.00, which included salaries and benefits for a full-time rector, an associate rector, an assistant rector, and lay staff, as well as expenses for the building, missions, and education. \$846,906.12 was pledged for that year. 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.

7. 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.

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

9. Are my donations tax deductible? Yes. Per IRS regulations, contributions for each year must be received or postmarked by December 31 to receive donation credit for that year's tax purposes. Donations may be applied to pledges for the prior year or following year, but the statement for tax purposes will reflect the actual date of the donation.

10. How much should I give? The amount is truly up to you. At St. Paul's, we have pledges and recurring gifts ranging from small to large. Every donation, regardless of size, is deeply valued and directly supports the missions and ministry of our church. Please see the table in this packet to know how others make this decision and reflect on what you feel called to contribute.



Deepening our Roots

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228

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God loves you. No Exceptions.

