



Stewardship and Pledging FAQ

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is the regular practice of returning to God a portion of all that God has given us. It is based on the belief that all we have is a gift from God, and that God in turn requires us to use these gifts in a responsible manner. This includes the concept that giving regularly of our time, talent, and money to God's work on this earth is as much a spiritual practice as prayer and worship.

Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Stewardship is lived out in:

- Sharing God in seeking justice, peace, and the integrity of creation in an interdependent universe.
- Wisely employing God-given human resources, abilities, and relationships.
- Sharing the material resources we hold and giving them in service, justice, and compassion.
- Providing for future generations, sharing in the life, worship, and responsible stewardship of the Church and of its mission both for the individual and for the community.

What is Pledging?

Pledging is promising to give a certain amount of money to your church in the next calendar year. A pledge, by definition, means, "to offer or guarantee by a solemn binding promise." Each year, we have the opportunity to renew our commitment to one another and the ministry of St. Philip's by making a financial commitment. Each and every pledge, no matter the size, makes a difference and works toward the building of our faith community.

Who should pledge?

Anyone who considers St. Philip's to be his or her church home should make a pledge of support.

Why are annual pledges important?

Annual pledges support everything we do and are at St. Philip's. Our annual operating budget is driven by the generosity of our parishioners through pledges. These pledges support all the operating costs of our ministry programs as well as the costs to sustain our buildings and staff.

Why should I pledge when I regularly put money in the offering plate?

Non-pledge contributions certainly help us carry on our ministry. However, pledges are essential because they allow us to create and follow an annual operating budget, and thereby practice responsible stewardship.

How is giving to the church different than other charitable giving, say, to the American Red Cross?

First, we celebrate and encourage all giving. Often we give to a charitable organization because its mission is important to us. This is also true of our giving to the church, but true Christian giving is more than this. As Christians we are called to be a generous people.



Matthew 6:19-20: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."

The path of Christian Stewardship involves intentional "giving back" in gratitude for all that God has given us. It is more than mission-based giving; it is spiritual practice, a holy habit.

How much should I give?

The Episcopal Church encourages its members to adopt the Old Testament practice of giving 10% (a tithe) of one's income. Many Christians who practice the tithe find it to be a powerful aspect of their spiritual lives. That being said, tithing may not be possible for everyone. Each should consider making a pledge that is both responsible and significant based on his or her financial situation. We encourage you to engage in proportional giving. If you are new to the practice of pledging, start at a comfortable but significant level, say 3 to 5 %, and plan to increase toward the tithe in coming years.

The Bible promises us that the more we give, the more we will be given in return. The most important thing is to give generously and joyfully.

Proverbs 11:24: One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7: The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

What does it mean to give proportionately?

Proportional giving is based on the premise that the first fruits are given back to God in grateful response to what God has given us. It refers to a conscious effort to determine an appropriate level of giving. The church believes that our standard of giving should reflect our standard of living. Each parishioner should consider making a pledge that is both responsible and significant based on his or her financial situation.

Luke 21:1-4: "And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had."

How can I pay my annual pledge?

St. Philip's accepts cash (when included in a pledge envelope with the donor's name), checks, Electronic Fund Transfers, and electronic payments via Paypal. You may also make a pledge payment of stock or other securities. In most cases, such a pledge payment may be considered a charitable deduction to avoid capital gains on the appreciation of the stock. Please call the Cathedral office at 408-293-7953 to learn how to make a gift of securities.



Do I have to pay when I pledge? Can I pay in installments?

Returning your pledge card is simply a promise to pay. Once you've made your pledge, you can fulfill it in as many payments as you wish throughout the year. Most parishioners pay either weekly or monthly.

I'm not sure what I can afford this year. How can I pledge?

We suggest that you pledge responsibly, based on your best estimate of the year's income. Your pledge can be adjusted by contacting the Treasurer if your circumstances change.

If I have questions about my pledge, who do I contact?

For questions about the practice of pledging, contact Rev. Lucie (lucie.thomas@stphilips.org). For questions about your current pledge or pledge payments, contact the Treasurer (treasurer@stphilips.org).

How is pledging good for ME?

Pledging encourages our spiritual growth and trust in God. It brings a spiritual component to our finances and allows us to have control over our money, rather than letting money and things have control over us. The practice of regular giving can be transforming. Truly, it is in giving that we receive.