

Frequently Asked Questions about Pledging

What is a pledge?

- A pledge is a financial commitment to the church for the upcoming year. The Vestry depends on pledge commitments to accurately prepare an operating budget that supports the church's ministries and day-to-day operations.

Why is it important to make a pledge commitment?

- Those who pledge to the work of God through St. Philip's typically consider our parish to be their church home. Your pledge, therefore, is an investment that brings greater health and wellbeing to your church home by supporting the necessary day-to-day operations of the church and strengthening its mission and ministry.

Why should I fill out a pledge card? Can I simply give when I am in worship or when I can?

- Parishioners are encouraged always to be generous with time, talent, and treasure. A pledge, however, reflects a specific amount of money that the church can depend on when setting its annual budget. Without pledges, the church's Vestry, our governing board, would have no concrete sense of what the income will be for the following year.

How much should I pledge?

- Giving is a spiritual practice that should be prayerfully considered. Scripture encourages us to give in gratitude and as a proportion of our income – i.e., giving a percentage of one's income as an act of worship. The biblical standard of giving in the Episcopal Church is 10% of our income, or a tithe. This may be a goal that is too much for some and many of us may require a more modest goal. Many parishioners plan their giving as a proportion of their income and gradually increase that proportion from year to year. This is a helpful way to step forward on that path of generosity and gratitude. **Our hope is that everyone at St. Philip's will pledge some amount.** If you are already pledging, please consider "moving up one step," by increasing your pledge. Please see the chart on the back to determine what's right for you and your household.

Don't we get money from the diocese?

- No, we don't—it's the other way around! Episcopal churches are usually financially independent, raising most of their operating funds from members. Unlike some churches, we are not funded from the top down. Your pledges or gifts go directly to our parish, and we are then charged an annual assessment to help fund the diocese, supporting it and the missions of the Episcopal Church throughout the world.

What happens if I fall behind in my pledge commitment? Can my pledge change?

- Yes. We recognize that circumstances change. If that happens, please contact the treasurer to make the adjustment to your pledge.

Will I receive a statement of contributions during 2025?

- Yes. In addition, you can always contact the treasurer for an up-to-date statement at any time.

How are my financial contributions used by St. Philip's?

- Your contributions are used to support the ministries and operations that enable the church to serve the needs of our community. The 2025 budget will be available in February.

What are the ways I can pay my pledge?

- You can give by cash or check or by credit card using our online giving system or PayPal.

Is my pledge tax deductible?

- Yes. You will receive a statement by the end of January of each year to be used to file your taxes.

Will my pledge make a difference?

- Yes, it will! Pledges represent our first and primary source of income. Every dollar makes a difference.

Proportional giving means that your gift is in proportion to your income. You give a certain percentage of your annual gross income as a gift. The scriptural concept of a “tithe” is to give back to God one-tenth (10%) of what we have received from God. If 10% is too high for you and your household, start thinking about your commitment to proportional giving with a small step up.

As an example, using the chart below, if your annual income is \$30,000 and you made a 10% pledge, that would be \$3,000 for the year or \$250 a month or \$57 a week.

Proportional Giving Chart

ANNUAL INCOME	1%	3%	5%	7%	10%	15%
\$10,000	\$100	\$300	\$500	\$700	\$1,000	\$1,500
\$15,000	\$150	\$450	\$750	\$1,050	\$1,500	\$2,250
\$20,000	\$200	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$2,000	\$3,000
\$30,000	\$300	\$900	\$1,500	\$2,100	\$3,000	\$4,500
\$40,000	\$400	\$1,200	\$2,000	\$2,800	\$4,000	\$6,000
\$50,000	\$500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
\$75,000	\$750	\$2,250	\$3,750	\$5,250	\$7,500	\$11,250
\$100,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
\$150,000	\$2,250	\$4,500	\$7,500	\$10,500	\$15,000	\$22,500
\$200,000	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$14,000	\$20,000	\$30,000
\$250,000	\$2,500	\$7,500	\$12,500	\$17,500	\$25,000	\$37,500