

Giving to St Stephen's Church

*"Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
till all the world adore his sacred name."*

Is the percentage I pledge pre-tax or post-tax income?

That is totally up to you. It is your choice how much to pledge, and St Stephen's values the fact that you pledge. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

How do I make my pledge?

You have lots of choices! You can:

- Fill out a pledge card, or send any written communication to the Parish Administrator (email, fax, or letter).
- Donate through your PayPal account or on the web at www.ststephenschurch.org.
- You may pay by check, credit card, or transfer financial securities (*Important note: please send us an email or letter indicating that you are transferring securities because your financial institution will not notify us.*)

Is all the money I give to St Stephen's considered payment on my pledge?

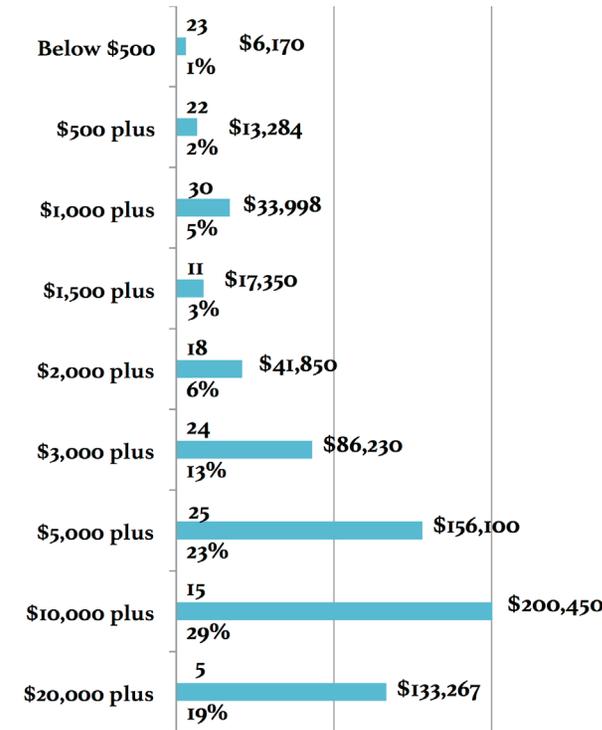
While contributions — like donations for flowers, giving to fundraisers, giving special gifts for holidays — are so appreciated and important, they are categorized as unanticipated income and are not credited toward a pledge. You will receive quarterly statements, and a complete year-end giving statement that contains all of your contributions.

Your pledge represents an annual gift to be given, as you choose, by December 31, 2021.

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Gravely. at elizabeth@ststephenschurch.org.

Household Amounts Pledged in 2020

173 parishioners pledged \$668,699



— 2021 Pledge Appeal —

Chairs

Meg Abbott
Georgene Tozzi

Senior Warden
Robert Moore

Treasurer
Bob McCaskill

Clergy

The Rev'd Phillip C. Ellsworth, Jr.
fr.ellsworth@ststephenschurch.org

The Rev'd Christine T. Trainor
christine@ststephenschurch.org

Parish Administrator

Elizabeth Gravely
elizabeth@ststephenschurch.org

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www.ststephenschurch.org | office@ststephenschurch.org

Lift High the Cross ...

St Stephen's | 2021 Pledge Appeal



The people of St Stephen's Church seek to live into the Great Commandment, serving God and neighbor by bringing the good news of Christ into relationships local to global through word and deed. Every day, each year, St Stephen's fulfills this mission through worship, music, youth and children's programs, prayer, social outreach, education, special events, and sacred space.

Since March of 2020, community and church protocols aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus have restricted meeting in person and challenged us to continue to do and be all these things together, even while we are physically apart. Pivoting operations, staff, members, and newcomers have risen to meet this new reality with creativity, responsiveness, and a renewed devotion to serve in these unprecedented times.

Your pledged gift for the calendar year of 2021 ensures that the resources of the parish continue to make a difference in the community now and in the future to come.

What does it mean to make a financial pledge to St Stephen's?

A written financial pledge makes your statement of intention, indicating how much of your income you would like to dedicate to sustain and further the growth of St Stephen's mission, ministry, legacy, and reach.

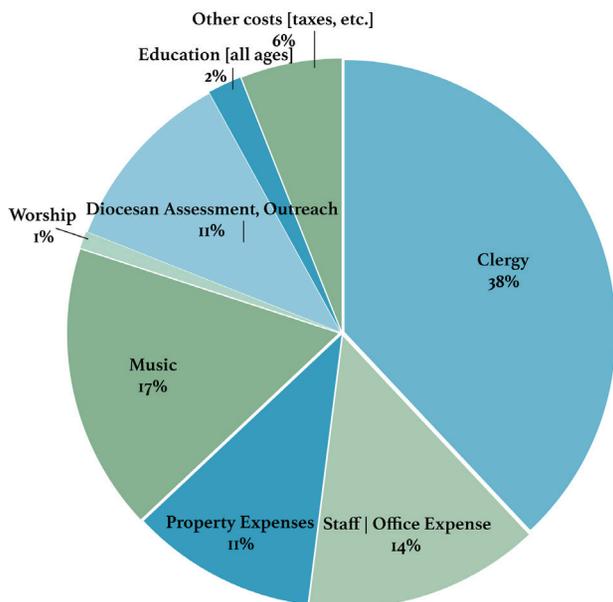
Why does my pledge matter?

Your pledge enables the parish to minister to the needs of all who come through our doors and throughout the local community, every day of the year. Your pledge supports education and outreach programs; funds spiritual enrichment for all ages; covers staff and clergy salaries; and underwrites all program and worship.

Why do we request a written pledge?

Your written pledge allows the Vestry to make financial decisions based on predictable revenue. Knowing the amount of income on which they can count for the year allows them to draft a strategic and responsible budget, planning appropriately for program, ministry, and staffing.

How Your Pledges Were Budgeted for 2020



How much should I pledge?

The first step is to ask God in prayer: How much am I being called to give? How am I being asked to respond to God's call to discipleship? Giving is aspirational. Many who pledge start by giving a percentage of their total income, which seems significant and responsible for the year, and then take on the spiritual discipline of increasing that percentage over time. The biblical standard for giving is the "tithe" which is 10% of income, reserving 90% for everything else.

In 2021, we are asking all members to consider one of two commitments:

- If you have not pledged before, or recently, please pledge this year; the act, not the amount, is most valued.
- If you can increase your pledge and/or move to the next pledge level, please consider increasing your commitment to St Stephen's Church.