

## The Ministry of Financial Stewardship at St. Matthew's Church

*Biblical references: 1 Corinthians 16:2, Exodus 3:19, Deuteronomy 26:1-4, Proverbs 3:9, Luke 6:38*

### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

At St. Matthew's, we know that financial stewardship is an important component of a balanced spiritual life. Returning to God from that which God has given us is a tangible way to express our faith. When each of us gives as we are able, *together we fund ministry within our parish, to the local community, and to the world.*

### WHAT IS A PLEDGE?

A pledge is an estimate of giving; some call it a statement of intent. Your pledge amount may be changed, increased or decreased during the year, at any time as your financial circumstances change.

### WHY SHOULD I PLEDGE?

Pledging allows you to make intentional decisions about your financial giving. When you plan ahead for your giving, you make conscious choices about spending your money in ways that reflect your faith and values. Receiving your pledge allows our Vestry, (the church's governing board) as well as the Finance Committee, to do for our parish community what you do for your household: plan wisely for the use of our resources in support of the mission and ministry to which God has called us. The Vestry and Finance Committee set a budget based on the total amount pledged to the church. While plate offerings are important to the parish, your pledge lets the Vestry plan more accurately for the ministry we can accomplish for the upcoming year.

### HOW DO I PLEDGE?

You may pay weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly via cash, check, or credit card. We will provide envelopes for your offerings if requested and payments are welcome by placing them in the plate on Sunday or mailing to the church. Another method of payment is your bank's bill pay service (if they offer one) where they will mail checks to the church in an amount and frequency that you specify. For online giving options (credit card, direct deposit from your bank) go to our website: [www.stmatthewspennington.org](http://www.stmatthewspennington.org) and scroll down to the very bottom of the home page to click on "Giving" then click on "Make a Donation". You may also pay your pledge with a donation of stock or a withdrawal from your IRA as part of your Required Minimum Distributions (you should consult with your tax advisor about using your IRA). [Please contact Bruce Weise, Finance Committee Chair, for instructions on donating stock.](#) Many companies have matching funds for charitable donations that even apply to religious organizations. If your company has such a plan, please let us know.

### HOW MUCH SHOULD I PLEDGE?

Determining the amount of your annual pledge is between you and God. However, as you make this important decision, reflecting on your vision of stewardship may be beneficial. Some ways we think about our giving include:

- I give because I am supposed to give — a sense of duty
- I give to pay my own way — a sense of fairness
- I give to return a portion of my blessings — a sense of gratitude
- I give to keep church ministries free to all — a sense of generosity

### WHAT IS PROPORTIONATE GIVING?

St. Matthew's is committed to proportional giving, with the goal of tithing (10%). If you are not pledging 10%, pledge a lower percentage and consider increasing your pledge each year. We ask that you prayerfully consider what level of giving is right for you and your family.

### EVERY PLEDGE, EVERY AMOUNT, MATTERS

Where you start or whether you tithe on your annual or gross income is not nearly as important as simply making your first pledge. Every pledge makes a difference, regardless of the amount.

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WHAT IF I MAKE A PLEDGE BUT LATER FIND I CAN'T PAY IT IN FULL?

If you have financial difficulties or other unexpected event, simply notify John Eckel, our Recording Clerk, who maintains the pledge records.

Adapted from St. Jas. Episcopal Church, NY.

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