



2025 Stewardship Campaign FAQ

A. A pledge is a symbol of a financial commitment. Pledges are typically in the form of a certain amount of money

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given eitner weekly, monthly o	r annually to suppor	t the mission of t	ne parisn.	
•	<i>‡ '@</i> 'carved in stone," a			the parish office know.
•		n the past, we red	be changed at any time. Just let the parish office know. ast, we received a very small amount of rent from non- ed system:" we don't have funds coming from outside fift matters. who pledge. You could think of this as the equivalent of er time by people who have left legacies to the parish. itional income for the parish. You could think of this as ccrue interest or dividends. ed by investing the funds in the endowment. You could ccount, or the investment gains in your retirement in the endowment mean the endowment is smaller, and	
<i>j)</i> A. That is correct. We can think the parish, so we really are cou	•	•		s coming from outside
your paycheck. The endowment is a fund The endowment is investe your savings account or re Investment income is the think of this as the interes	that has been adde ed in order to general etirement account, vamount of money go st earned on your sa note that withdraw	d to over time by ate additional inc which accrue inte enerated by invervings account, or als from the endo	people who have left come for the parish. You rest or dividends. sting the funds in the the investment gains	e legacies to the parish. Ou could think of this as endowment. You could in your retirement
 j = A. The annual parish budget his optimally, withdrawals from the 		ouilt by using pled	lge income, investmer	nt income, and, less
j)A. Yes, our parish budget has a balance the budget needed to				

A. Very much so. Quite frankly, much of the budget is needed for infrastructure: to keep the church and parish house in good condition. The Vestry has looked for every opportunity to conserve funds wherever possible. For instance, instead of upgrading the facility's heating infrastructure at a proposed cost exceeding \$1 million, repairs have been made to give the heating system additional life. These repairs cost \$84,000. Additionally, the parish office is now open for three days a week in order to save on staffing costs.

withdraw about \$78,000 annually from the endowment. Theoretically, we could eliminate this need to tap into the endowment for a similar amount if each pledger increased his/her pledge by \$929 annually or \$17 weekly.

Q. How many people pledge? And are there trends related to pledging?

A. In 2025, there were 80 pledgers – individuals and families – who pledged a total of \$201,618. This was slightly down from 2024 pledging of \$202,750, given by 84 pledgers.

See the table below for a profile of our pledgers.

2025 Annual Pledge by Age Group – Generosity from Generation to Generation

Age Group	Number	% of Pledgers	Pledge Amount	% of Pledge Funds
20s	0	0	\$0	0%
30s	1	1%	\$480	1%
40s	3	5%	\$3,600	2%
50s	5	8%	\$9,940	5%
60s	14	21%	\$28,428	15%
70s	25	38%	\$91,430	49%
80+	17	26%	\$51,320	28%

A. Related to trends, it's clear to see that our parish demographics show a decided tilt to pledgers in their 60s, 70s, and 80+ -- and a need to attract young people and young families to St. Stephen's to foster an ever more vibrant parish.

Q. I care deeply about St. Stephen's and want to see it thrive far into the future. What can I do to help?

A. There are several things each of us can do to help the parish thrive next year and into the future. Among them:

- Consider increasing your pledge by 10% this year. For example, if you give \$1000 each year, this represents an increase of \$100.
- Consider volunteering for one of the many roles that enhance our common life together! A
 Time and Talent pledge form has been included in your pledge packet. We invite you to
 think about volunteering for something you may have done in the past or for something
 entirely new! In the coming weeks, you will hear more about opportunities with Altar Guild,
 Choir, Vestry, Property, and others.
- Consider asking a family member, friend or co-worker to come to St. Stephen's to meet us! A single visit is just that a chance to say hello.
- Provide ideas on cost savings or fund-raising to any member of the Vestry! We'd love to hear them!