



*that we receive.*

***The kingdom of Heaven is like someone who gives what they can and receives back more than they could ever imagine.***

Do you know where this verse is from? Okay, it's a trick question, it isn't in the Bible. But if you thought it sounded like Jesus, I think you might be onto something. Jesus told many parables, many stories of the kingdom to expand the imagination, and so much of what he said comes down to this simple exchange of giving what one can and receiving more than one can imagine. Give me your faith the size of the mustard seed and receive the power to move mountains. Give me your money, he addressed the Rich Young Ruler, and receive the bottomless wealth of life with me.

This divine exchange – this in giving we receive – is at the heart of our life together as the Body of Christ expressed in the community of St. Anne's. When you give another a ride to church, you receive the blessing of friendship. When you stuff a bag of groceries for St. Stephen's, you receive the satisfaction of knowing you've made a difference. When you sit as a mentor to an incarcerated person taking college courses, you receive more education than anything a university could supply. When you give of your time to teach Sunday school, you receive the wonder that is the spirituality of children. When you give your humble and non-classically trained voice (I'm describing myself here) to the congregational hymn, you receive a sound fuller than you could ever make on your own. When you open your mind to Scripture, you receive a heart enkindled by the love of Higher Things.

**For it is in giving that we receive.**

Friends, sisters, and brothers in Christ, this season I pray you reflect on how the Spirit is calling you deeper into this exchange of giving and receiving. How might you give to support this community this year? How might God be inviting you to receive more life, more joy, more fullness from this community? We don't give because we are exceptional people, with exceptional resources. We give because we've received so much already, and in giving, so the logic of the divine exchange goes, we receive more. I can't explain it. But we each can experience it. That's what making a pledge to the parish is all about. I pray you consider what you might give to our parish to support our life in 2024. I pray you open your heart to all that you might receive.



In gratitude,  
Garrett



## Our Gifts

- A beautiful worship space, robust music program, and skilled staff.
- Innovative Christian education programs for children and adults.
- A host of fellowship opportunities with our parish family members.
- Justice and outreach ministries, both locally and across the globe.

## Our Goals for 2024

- **Improve overall pledging** participation by parishioners.
- **Engage** new members through creative worship and programming.
- **Continue to elevate** our worship through beautiful choral music.

## Our Requests

- **Pledge.** If St. Anne's is your church, we ask you to pledge.
- **Join us** in Sunday morning worship, for special events, as volunteers.
- **Invite someone** to a special service, a Forum, a film screening.
- **Say "yes" to something new.** Help prepare the altar for worship, become an usher, participate in a book group, join a commission, teach our children. Help us be the church we are called to be in this community.



## Pledging by the Numbers

St. Anne's boasts 396 members, representing 300 adults, 96 children, 70 couples, and 45 families, for a total of 191 potential pledging units for 2024. Our pledge numbers have remained fairly strong over the recent past, growing slightly from 146 actual pledging units in 2021 to 153 pledging units in 2023. The average pledge over that timeframe has remained almost constant at \$3,580.

<b>2023 Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$636,578</b>
Less rent, investments, plate	\$ 89,880
Total covered by pledging	<b>\$546,693</b>
Cost per pledging unit:	<b>\$ 2,804</b>

Pledge Level	# of Pledges
> \$15,000	7
\$10,000-14,999	3
\$5,000-9,999	19
\$2,500-4,999	43
\$1,000-2,499	53
\$ 999 or less	25
Do not pledge	40

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What is stewardship?

A: Stewardship is the responsible use of God's gifts for God's purposes. At St. Anne's, stewardship refers to the gifts you give and the time you spend in support of your church's ministry.

### Q: What is a pledge?

A: A pledge is a promise to support St. Anne's financially in the coming year. Pledges pay for more than 80% of our annual operating budget. If you consider St. Anne's your church home, we need you to pledge.

### Q: How much does St. Anne's need to balance its budget?

A: To pay for our church, we need pledges totaling almost \$600,000, enabling us to maintain current staffing levels, our commitment to outreach, and infrastructure maintenance, all during rising inflation.



St. Anne's in-the-Fields  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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