

My 2025 Pledge as a member of St. Stephen's

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Tel: _____

I/We pledge to the glory of God in support of St. Stephen's Mission:

- \$_____ Weekly or
- \$_____ Monthly or
- \$_____ Quarterly or
- \$_____ As I Can

My Capital Pledge is \$_____

I would like pledge envelopes: YES or NO

I would like to give online: YES or NO

I/We also pledge time and/or talent in support of other ministries:

- Fellowship
- Community Outreach
- Usher/Welcome
- Coffee Hour Host
- Fair/Events Team
- Pastoral Care/Healing
- Consignment Shop
- Lay Eucharistic Minister
- Sunday School/Youth Group
- Stewardship
- Altar Guild
- Choir
- Lay Reader
- Acolyte
- Bible Study
- Book Study

Stewardship is...

Being Stewards of God's Creation:

Caring for God's creation is an important part of ministry. We are here to be caretakers of the world for all future generations. Many of our products are disposable, but God's Earth is not. Frank Lloyd Wright said, "Study nature. Love nature. Stay close to nature. It will never fail you." Let's not fail it.

Capital for our Buildings:

Supporting capital projects like roofs and bathrooms allows us to continue to gather and give thanks and praise God for God's creations.

Time, Talent, and Treasure:

Without volunteers who give freely both of their time and talent, a parish cannot thrive. Treasure, or financial support of the parish and its ministries is necessary, but a church with the means to support ministry and no one to minister also cannot thrive.

Stewardship is not just Money

Merriam-Webster defines stewardship as, "the activity or job of protecting and being responsible for something." Stewardship and money are different things, but the church needs both. Everyone in the parish must be a steward, and all who are able to must help to financially sustain the life of the church through financial stewardship. Because the church needs both types of stewards, and because the church cannot survive without both types of stewardship, there is no type of stewardship that is superior or more necessary than another. The church needs what we have to give when we have it to give.

St. Stephen's Church

9 Carlton Ave
Port Washington NY 11050

Donate online at:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YNDH/home>



2025 Pledge Campaign



“Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as an offering and sacrifice for God”

Every Sunday at St. Stephen’s we hear this phrase at the Offertory. It asks each of us to embody the heart of stewardship: loving, giving and acting, to the glory of God, by emulating Christ. We are asked to make an offering of ourselves, pledging ourselves in mission and ministry as well as making a financial commitment to support our Church.

How will you walk in love in 2025? Please pray with your family members to understand how God is calling you to share your gifts. Lean in to our MAP process to help build our mission based on our congregation’s talents and our community’s needs. Jesus teaches us that we feed our faith with generosity, and our greatest gift is our presence and our service.

Your 2025 pledge will help us identify the financial resources we have to support our Church, our worship and our ministries. Your separate capital contribution will help replenish our capital fund, to address the ongoing needs of our beautiful, aging buildings. Please also consider joining one or more of the ministries that knit our congregation together into a beloved community.

Let us walk together with Christ, in love and gratitude!

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. Lauren T. McLeavey

Pledge by the Numbers

2023: Number of Pledges: 50
Total value of Pledges: \$183,000
Actual operating expense: \$620,000

2024: Number of Pledges: 53
Total value of Pledges: \$181,300
Budgeted operating expense: \$588,000

The Capital Fund has been fully depleted by the boiler and door projects and other improvements across the campus (\$139,000 spent in 2023). Your Capital Pledge will allow us to plan next-stage projects that will align with our values and discernment.

Where does our non-pledge revenue come from to balance our budget?

- Plate cash and special offerings
- Non-pledge Parishioner donations
- Bequests
- Capital Campaign (an annual effort)
- The Consignment Shop
- The Fall Fair and other Fund Raisers
- Rental Property Income
- Facilities Rental

Over the last few years, our operating budgets have projected material deficits, which until 2022 were thankfully offset by a few generous bequests. Legacy gifts are a real blessing! – please reach out to Mo. Lauren to discuss estate planning and bequests. And, if you give but do not pledge, please consider pledging, so that we can count on your support!

We all see the cost of goods and services increase from year to year. It is the same with expenses at the Church, however pledges are often held steady. If everyone increases their pledge by a small amount, it will make a big difference to St. Stephen’s.

How can we do this?

1. Consider increasing your pledge. “Tithing” calls for a commitment of 10% of income, which would fill our coffers! Can you reach for -
\$10/week or \$520/year, 0.1% of our budget
\$25/week or \$1,300/year, 0.25%
\$50/week or \$2,600/year, 0.5%
\$100/week or \$5,200/year, 1.0%

Is there spending you might be willing to re-direct to St. Stephen’s and its missions? -
\$20/week = A cup of coffee a day
\$50/week = A family fast food meal
\$100/week = A family trip to the movies
\$150/week = Dinner at a sit down restaurant

2. We must grow our active and pledging membership. It is all of our responsibility to share the message of our vital worship and mission with those we engage, and help to grow our Church. And we should proclaim the joy that comes from abundant generosity, witnessed by our pledge!

Please prayerfully consider the commitment you are able to make to St. Stephen’s, of your Time, Talent and Treasure, and God Bless!!