



September 2024

Greetings!

A steward is defined as “a person who manages another’s property or financial affairs; one who administers as the agent of others.” For us Christians, for “the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement,” as Presiding Bishop Michael Curry would say, stewardship reflects our commitment to work, pray, and give to spread the kingdom of God (BCP, p.856). In other words, the three “Ts” of sharing our time, talent, and treasure.

St. Anselm’s custom is to review and reflect on our commitment to our community each fall. We are specifically focused on the “T” of treasure via our annual pledge drive. This year’s theme for St. Anselm’s Stewardship Campaign is: **“Stewardship means all of us...all the time.”**

This letter invites you to consider your St. Anselm’s pledge commitment for 2025. All of us at St. Anselm’s, united in our commitment to the church’s mission, find ourselves facing a year of challenges. But though we suffered some financial setbacks late in 2023 and early 2024, we are turning a corner. **Engagement and attendance are up--as are St. Anselm’s budget demands for the upcoming year and beyond.**

Our primary goal is to ensure we have the staffing required for a congregation with significant pastoral and spiritual needs. A full-time Rector is essential for us to move forward as a parish. We have been blessed with Rev. Will’s help and support this year at 20 hours a week, but neither he nor any clergy can continue on a half-time/half-pay basis. It is of utmost importance that we provide a viable salary package to attract and keep the clergy member of our choice. We must also find the means to afford a gifted and skilled music director. As we grow, the salary needs of other staff will also increase.

We’ve run the numbers, and to support full-time clergy, offer meaningful worship and program offerings, continue smooth business operations, maintain our facility, and invest modestly in outreach, we need to secure pledges of \$295,000 for 2025. To meet stretch goals—for example, hiring a permanent part-time choir director, setting aside prudent maintenance reserves, supporting community outreach at robust levels, and planning for program investments to support future growth—we need to secure pledges of \$350,000.

**We need everyone’s support.** Our goal is twofold: one, to have all members of St. Anselm’s pledge (make a monetary commitment to be completed by the end of 2025), and two, to ask all pledging members to review their current pledge with great thought and care and increase their commitment if possible. We have a promising future, but only with all our assistance and loving care.

As part of this year’s stewardship campaign, we will host several receptions to reflect and give thanks for our life together. Members of the parish will also present their reasons for giving to St. Anselm’s at services throughout October. The kick-off of our campaign will be on Oct. 6, St. Francis Day, and an ingathering service will be held on All Saints Day, Nov. 3, when our pledges will be offered up for blessing. St. Anselm’s Vestry will host a celebratory brunch after that service. We look forward to seeing you all. Let’s rejoice in our growing church in every way!

Your Stewardship Commission:

Katie Taggart, Chair

Julie Rinkenberger, John Powers, Keith Pearce, and Doug Merrill

P.S. Please see the FAQ page for more info on pledging and our finances at St. Anselm’s.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### 1) What is pledging?

Pledging is a commitment to contribute a certain amount of money over a period of time. Our current stewardship campaign (aka "pledge drive") is asking all those who consider themselves members (nearby or far away, online or in-person) to let us know what they will be able to contribute to St. Anselm's in 2025 so we can prepare our 2025 budget.

### 2) How much should I pledge?

Pledging is a personal, intentional, spiritual decision we hope you make after much thought and prayer. Pledges can be any amount, usually given periodically (weekly, monthly, quarterly) throughout the year. Some people provide a one-time lump sum. All pledges, large and small, are valued as a commitment in faith to our community. If you currently pledge to St. Anselm's, you may want to consider an incremental increase, such as increasing your pledge by 5-10% over last year's pledge.

### 3) What is proportional giving?

Proportional Giving involves intentionally designating a portion of your annual income as your pledge to St. Anselm's. This chart shows yearly pledge amounts at different income levels and giving percentages. You are invited to use this information to determine an appropriate level of giving in gratitude for all that God has given you.

	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$15,000	\$1,500	\$1,350	\$1,200	\$1,050	\$900	\$750	\$600	\$450	\$300	\$150
\$25,000	\$2,500	\$2,250	\$2,000	\$1,750	\$1,500	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$750	\$500	\$200
\$35,000	\$3,500	\$3,150	\$2,800	\$2,450	\$2,100	\$1,750	\$1,400	\$1,050	\$700	\$350
\$45,000	\$4,500	\$4,050	\$3,600	\$3,150	\$2,700	\$2,250	\$1,800	\$1,350	\$900	\$450
\$55,000	\$5,500	\$4,950	\$4,400	\$3,850	\$3,300	\$2,750	\$2,200	\$1,650	\$1,100	\$550
\$65,000	\$6,500	\$5,850	\$5,200	\$4,550	\$3,900	\$3,250	\$2,600	\$1,950	\$1,300	\$650
\$75,000	\$7,500	\$6,750	\$6,000	\$5,250	\$4,500	\$3,750	\$3,000	\$2,250	\$1,500	\$750
\$100,000	\$10,000	\$9,000	\$8,000	\$7,000	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$1,000
\$125,000	\$12,500	\$11,250	\$10,000	\$8,750	\$7,500	\$6,250	\$5,000	\$3,750	\$2,500	\$1,250
\$150,000	\$15,000	\$13,500	\$12,000	\$10,500	\$9,000	\$7,500	\$6,000	\$4,500	\$3,000	\$1,500
\$200,000	\$20,000	\$18,000	\$16,000	\$14,000	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
\$250,000	\$25,000	\$22,500	\$20,000	\$17,500	\$15,000	\$12,500	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$2,500
\$500,000	\$50,000	\$45,000	\$40,000	\$35,000	\$30,000	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000

### 4) How do I pledge?

Please complete and return the enclosed pledge card to St. Anselm's by mail, online, or bring it with you on Sunday, November 3rd as part of our ingathering service on All Saints Day.

### 5) Why pledge?

By pledging, you are helping ensure that St. Anselm's leaders can count on your ongoing financial support as we plan for the year ahead.

### 6) How are financial decisions made at St. Anselm's

The Vestry of St. Anselm's makes financial decisions. Vestry is the name for the church's "board of directors." Members are elected to three-year terms. The Vestry meets monthly.