

5. What is the average pledge?

The average pledge, for 2018's budget, is \$3,010.

6. Is my pledge confidential?

Yes. Fewer than 3 members of the parish know the actual amounts of individual pledges. Each year St. James's publishes an alphabetical list of all who have pledged, with a provision for those who choose to remain anonymous. We do this to acknowledge and thank those who have committed to St. James's well-being.

7. When should I pledge?

Beginning in September, we ask everyone to pledge for the following year so that we can affirm our budget. Of course, new pledges are welcome throughout the year.

8. How can I pay my pledge?

There are several convenient ways to honor your pledge:

- Make regular payments by check using the envelopes provided to all who request them.
- Use your bank's online bill paying system and set up regular weekly, monthly or other periodic payments directly to the church.

- Use the secure electronic payment option under the GIVE tab on St. James's website, www.doers.org.
- Use appreciated stocks, donor adviser funds or IRA payouts to pay your pledge. (If you are 70 1/2 years of age, your IRA payouts should be fully tax-deductible). In either case, please alert Suzanne Hall to ensure that your pledge payment is properly credited.

7. What if my situation changes and I cannot fulfill my pledge?

We understand that life's circumstances do change, often unexpectedly. In this case, please alert Suzanne Hall, so that our records can be amended as needed.

*For any questions please contact Suzanne Hall,
Director of Stewardship and Development,
at 804 355-1779 x335, shall@doers.org*



St. James's Episcopal Church

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Pledge
Q&A's

From

Cheryl Guedri & Harry Warner,
2019 Annual Giving Chairs

Considering Your Pledge

Each fall, every member of the congregation is again asked to make a financial commitment to the ongoing ministries of St. James's. Collectively, our pledged support provides about 90% of our annual budget. St. James's can only be the church we inspire it to be with our financial support.

What to consider as you determine your 2019 pledge:

Pray. Give it to God. We are members of St. James's because of our love and commitment to Christ and the Christian life. Ask for God's help to guide you.

Your life's blessings. Your pledge should reflect the gratitude and joy for all we have received in our lives.

Why is St. James's special to you? Is it the liturgy, our service to others in the community and the world, our life-long Christian education, the music, or just the pure joy of our fellowship?

Why is St. James's not just another "charity?" We are a church family, knowing all the great things we do are in God's name. Your pledge is an affirmation of your faith and commitment to ensure the vitality of our parish, just as we have done since 1835.

Challenge yourself. In the end, pledging is about letting go of our agenda so that we can say yes to God's agenda for us.

Every pledge matters. Some folks think that St. James's is funded primarily by a few generous members of the parish. This is NOT the case. Each of us is responsible for supporting and maintaining our wonderful church and ministry. Your pledge makes a difference.

Some Questions & Answers

1. What is a pledge?

A pledge is a financial commitment to the ministry and well-being of St. James's. Your pledge reinforces the importance of God and St. James's in your life. And your pledge provides the Vestry the expected income essential to preparing our annual budget. St. James's simply cannot operate and thrive without a reasonable estimate of its financial resources.

2. Doesn't St. James's receive support from our Endowment Fund? The Endowment Fund was created to assist with our church's physical plant and other extraordinary needs. This year the Endowment Fund provides about 7% of our annual budget, not what it was

intended for nor can be sustained. The Endowment Fund is a very important resource for us, but our annual operations depend almost entirely upon pledges.

3. What is an aspirational budget?

The vestry has reviewed a \$2.8 million budget representing what it will take financially to operate, maintain, and minister our church. While we anticipate taking two years to achieve, we must make a priority ending the Endowment Fund's operational support and building a maintenance reserve.

4. How much should I pledge?

The Vestry has endorsed the Biblical tithe as the aspirational giving level. We urge everyone to aspire to reach that goal, making St. James's, our church, your primary philanthropic priority. (Please refer to the proportional giving chart on the back of your pledge card.) What you pledge, of course, is entirely a personal decision. But, it should be grounded in your faith, love, and commitment to God's work through St. James's. Your pledge should not be an afterthought or casual decision. We ask you reflect and pray upon making it a priority.