



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is the spiritual practice of acknowledging all that we have and all that we are is from our Creator and the call to care for those gifts, including the ministry of the Church.

WHY DO WE GIVE TO THE CHURCH?

We give to God through the Church because we recognize the source of love and grace in Christ, and we respond with gratitude as the hands and feet of Christ so that all might come to know and experience that love and grace in Baton Rouge and beyond.

WHAT IS A PLEDGE?

A pledge is a prayerful and thoughtful financial commitment to support the mission and ministry of St. James along with one's investment of time, talent, and relationships.

WHY ARE WE ASKED TO RETURN A PLEDGE?

While all giving is greatly appreciated, a monetary pledge acknowledges our individual priority to God and the church in which our faith is lived out. A pledge is a commitment of first fruits. Also, pledging helps the Vestry to be good stewards of St. James' budget and resources.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PLEDGE?

The actual amount of your pledge is a personal decision that should be grounded in faith, prayer, and commitment to God's work through St. James. While everyone may not be able to tithe (10% of income), we urge everyone to aspire to reach that goal and to make St. James their primary philanthropic priority.

WHAT IF I HAVE ALREADY SETUP ONLINE GIVING?

Please still return a pledge form for this upcoming year so that we can confirm your information and ensure everything processes according to your wishes.

WHAT IF I AM UNABLE TO PLEDGE A SPECIFIC DOLLAR AMOUNT AT THIS TIME?

We understand that current circumstances might not be conducive to making an exact pledge amount at this time. We ask that you please return a pledge form and check the “as able” box.

WHAT IF I NEED TO CHANGE MY PLEDGE DURING THE YEAR?

If life circumstances change, then simply contact the church office. A pledge is not a binding contract, but rather a promise of intention. In any given year, there are a handful of households that both increase and decrease their pledge/giving as circumstances change.

DOES ST. JAMES RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE ENDOWMENT?

Yes, each year 4% to 5% of the three-year average is dedicated to the mission and ministry of St. James as outreach, facility, and operating budget support. There were years in which St. James withdrew a higher percentage, but most financial advisors suggest no more than 5% in any given year. Therefore, some elements of past budgets have been cut back over the past three years to ensure we stay within our means without exhausting the endowment. In order to maintain the standard of mission and ministry that we aspire to, we rely upon the participation of each member. Yes, your participation matters and is important!