

FAQs

What is a pledge and who pledges?

A pledge is a promise and a commitment, not an actual donation. When you pledge you affirm your commitment to give a certain amount of money to the church in the upcoming calendar year. We use pledges to plan our budget.

What does a pledge signify?

Every pledge is a sign of faithfulness and belonging. It is a way of saying that you value this place and that you share in our mission.

What is pledge money used for?

Everything! Staff, maintenance and operations, ministry initiatives—everything the church does depends on dollar amounts pledged each year. Pledge dollars make up the bulk of the church budget. Good Shepherd does have a small endowment that supplements pledge dollars. Last year we drew \$88,000 from our endowment earnings; in comparison, \$547,668 of our budget came from member pledges.

How much do I pledge?

There is no set amount you are expected to pledge. Take a look at your budget and pay attention to what you spend on the things that are important to you. Last year, our pledges ranged from about \$250 a year to \$80,000 a year. People sometimes pledge a round number: \$5,000/ \$10,000/ \$20,000 a year. The amount is up to you.

How do I pledge?

You can fill out the enclosed pledge card and mail it back to the church or you can pledge online using the QR code. You can also visit the donation page on our website. We ask that everyone turn in their pledges no later than All Saints Day. This year All Saints Day is Sunday, November 2.

How do I fulfill my pledge?

Some people divide up their annual pledge and make regular payments every month or every quarter. Some people give their pledge as a lump sum. Keep in mind that there are many ways to structure your giving—you might give stocks; or direct your RMD to the church. Check with our Treasurer or with your financial advisor for other ways to give that might benefit your tax bill while benefitting the church. You can email our Treasurer, Dee Lester, at deeroberts135@gmail.com.

How much money does the Diocese give us?

The Diocese doesn't subsidize our budget at all! In fact, we pay an annual pledge to the Diocese!

Who monitors and tracks our money and spending?

The Vestry is responsible for the church's finances. The Treasurer and the Finance & Budget Committee advise the Vestry and monitor our spending and our accounts. In addition, Good Shepherd uses GuideServe, a third-party accounting firm that specializes in church finances, to handle our payroll and to ensure reliable processes around billing and budgeting. Every transaction is handled by GuideServe's bonded CPAs and by members who have been designated to approve and sign off on checks and payments. A separate committee monitors our endowment, which is managed by a trusted outside firm.

A pledge for the future... Join the Legacy Society!

If you include Church of the Good Shepherd in your will, you will become a member of the Good Shepherd Legacy Society. Bequests from faithful members help ensure the future financial health of the church and make new initiatives possible. For more information, please contact Jacqueline at Jacqueline.soltys@goodshepherdnorfolk.org.