

## My 2024 Pledge as a member of St. Stephen's

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like pledge envelopes: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

I would like to give online: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

I want to get \_\_\_ Paper \_\_\_ Email statements

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

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship                | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach        | <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Guild |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Usher/Welcomer            | <input type="checkbox"/> Choir       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee Hour Host          | <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Reader  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair/Events Team          | <input type="checkbox"/> Acolyte     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Care/Healing     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consignment Shop          | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Club   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Eucharistic Minister  |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School/Youth Group |                                      |

## 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 is...

Maintaining the health of God's creation is one of our most important charges as Christians. Supporting these projects allows us to continue to gather and give thanks and praise to 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.

### Differences Between Stewardship and 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.

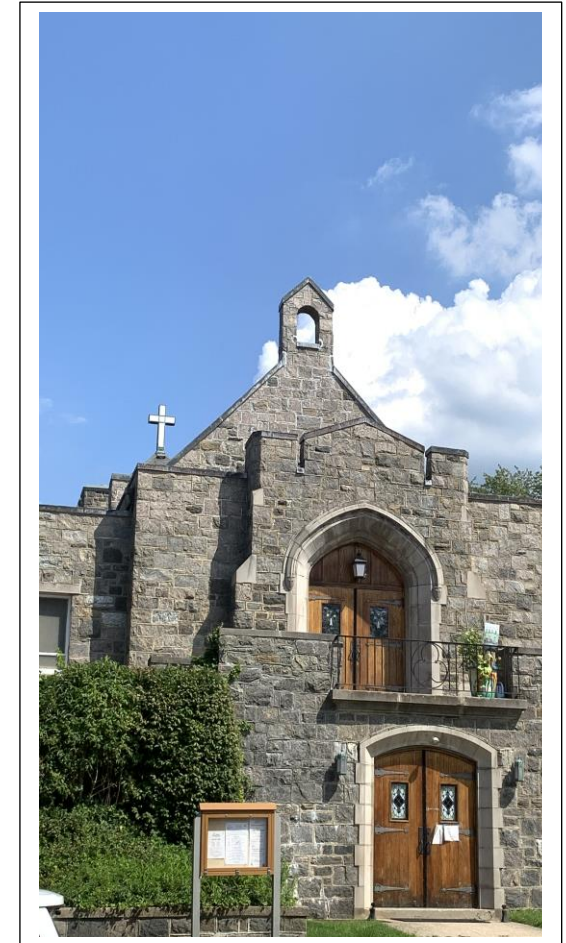
Port Washington, NY 11050

Donate here:

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



## 2024 Pledge Campaign



# "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works?"

Apostle James

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are always working to transform St. Stephen's, and to discern the ministries our community needs of us. Jesus teaches us that we feed our faith with generosity and that focusing on the needs of others relieves our anxiety about our own needs. Through all our efforts to reach out to the community, we are walking Jesus' way of love.

"Stewardship" is not just "money." The apostle James exhorts us to demonstrate our faith through works. Works can take many forms. It can be money or actions; we ask that you prayerfully consider what God calls you to do in your lives and contribute however you can.

We tend to take our buildings for granted: they are beautiful, they have endured over a century. But they wear out and we need annual capital pledges to maintain them.

We need all of our members to contribute via time, talent and treasure to spread God's message in the world. I ask you to consider this when you think of your service to God via St. Stephen's.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. Lauren T. McLeavey

## Pledging 2023 Results

### Comparison of Pledges 2022-2023:

#### 2022:

- Number of Pledges: 47
- Total Amount: \$183,300

#### 2023:

- Number of Pledges: 50
- Total Amount: \$183,000

**Previous Capital Pledge** have allowed us to replace the boilers in the parish hall, replace or refinish the doors in the parish hall and Church. **2024 Capital Pledge** will allow us to continue to review roofing replacement/repair that is required for the church.

### **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 have thankfully been made up by a few generous gifts and 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!

## How Much Should We Pledge?

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? -

- \$10/week = A cup of coffee a day
- \$25/week = A family fast food meal
- \$50/week = A family trip to the movies
- \$100/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!!