

## How Do I Decide How Much to Pledge?

How much you give to St. John's is a personal decision, and we encourage you to be thoughtful and prayerful about it. Only you can determine what is the right amount for you, at this stage in your life and your spiritual journey. Your pledge is very important to us. It tells us that you feel you have a place in our community of faith and that you believe in our ministries and message. Your pledge will also allow us to extend our hands to others.

If you need help getting started in thinking about your annual pledge, here are some hints from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship that might be helpful to you.

If you are new to the idea of proportional giving, you might want to start with the national average of 2.6% of one's annual income. If you have been giving for awhile, try increasing last year's pledge by 1% and see how that feels to you.

One way to think about your pledge is to write down the amount of your expected 2011 income. If you don't know what that will be, use your 2010 income as a guide. Pick a percentage that you feel comfortable pledging to the church. Multiply that percentage to your income.

You can pledge to give annually, quarterly, monthly, or weekly; whatever feels right for you. We can provide you with collection envelopes to help you organize your giving. Decide how you'd like to give, and divide the number you came up with in the previous step by the number of payments you'd like to make. However you decide to break up the amount of your pledge, it is most helpful for us to know the total amount that you are planning to give for the entire year of 2011 when you fill out your pledge card.

Amount of 2011 income \_\_\_\_\_  
x percentage (eg. .026, .05, .10)  
= \_\_\_\_\_

Now, ask yourself: How do you feel about this number? Does it reflect the real worth and importance of St. John's Episcopal and its ministries in your life?

Thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully and prayerfully complete your pledge card and return it to us in a timely fashion. Again, if you have any questions, please feel free to talk with us or with any member of the Vestry.

Blessings,

Bill and Kristine Kealey  
Stewardship co-chairs