

# What is Stewardship?

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Stewardship is the biblical vision that all our resources already belong to God, and we have the sacred responsibility to use them as well as possible in the service of God's kingdom.

What is a pledge?

We cannot use God's resources well as a parish community unless we make a budget and plan carefully for the expenses of our community's work. In order to plan for the fiscal year ahead, each year St. Alban's invites each individual or household to formally commit to a specific dollar level of support. This is called a pledge. The pledge is paid either all at once or over the course of the year.

When do I make my pledge?

You can make your pledge at anytime by completing a pledge card or visiting stewardship at [stalbanmaine.org](http://stalbanmaine.org). On Pledge Sunday November 20, 2022 we will offer all our pledges together as an act of collective faith and worship.

How and when can I pay my pledge?

You may choose to write checks every Sunday to fulfill your pledge in the offering plate. If you prefer to use cash in the plate, we can provide pledge envelopes that help us apply it towards your pledge. You can set up automatic payments from your bank directly to the church at any schedule of your making or make online payments. We also have various other ways to give. Details about how to give are on the website.

Why should I pledge?

Most people decide to pledge because they love God, and they love the community of faith at St. Alban's that helps nurture their spiritual growth, provides meaningful fellowship, and empowers them for living out God's mission in the world.

How is the money used?

The income from pledges keeps our doors open to the world, enables the day-to-day operations of our parish, funds the upkeep of our buildings and grounds, supports our personnel needs, and equips our ministries to carry out their work.

How much should I pledge?

While the biblical tithe--10% of our income--stands as an aspiration for some, we realize that may not be realistic in every situation. Regardless of the amount, we hope your pledge represents a personal commitment of faith. An old adage says "do not give until it hurts, but give until it feels good;" and many of us at St. Alban's attest to the spiritual benefits of aspirational giving.

What about my time and talent?

The Church functions on the time and talent given by its many members who serve in so many ways in the building up of our community, in the worship and service of God, and in acts of mercy towards the world. If you would like to "pledge" your time, please be in touch with the Rector about where your talents and time might match with a need in the parish.