



St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
221 UNION ST | CARY, NC, 27511



Common Myths about Pledging and Giving

1. The Diocese of NC funds most of St. Paul's annual budget.

In fact, St. Paul's does not receive any regular financial support from our diocese. In the Episcopal Church, parishes are self-supporting and, in fact, it is the diocese which receives financial support from its member parishes. Each parish is assessed a "mission share" which in recent years has been 10% - 11% of their annual budget. St. Paul's annual mission share to the diocese is part of our heritage as members of the Episcopal Church. In 2025 our mission share, given to support the mission of the diocese and the wider church, was \$129,221.

2. A pledge is a contract, and I can't (or shouldn't) change it.

First and foremost, a pledge is an *estimate of giving* so our vestry can estimate the parish's annual income for the purpose of responsible budgeting. It is not a contract. While of course we hope pledge estimates are reliable, we understand that life is full of surprises, both good and bad. If your financial situation changes, we understand that your financial support for St. Paul's may need to change as well. In fact, St. Paul's has a long history of mutual support for our members. We stand ready to walk with you, whatever comes your way.

3. I want to give directly to my favorite charities beyond St. Paul's so I can make a more direct impact with my giving. Others will support the church.

We are delighted that you give from your heart to those causes you believe in, and we would never expect you to support St. Paul's exclusively. However, it may help to know that most organizations addressing things like climate change or homelessness receive philanthropic grants *in addition* to their individual donors while *St. Paul relies entirely on the support of our parishioners*. If you find spiritual sustenance at St. Paul's and support all the love-spreading work we do, we hope you will find room in your giving budget for St. Paul's.

4. Pledges are for those who can make big commitments. I can't give enough to make a difference.

Financial pledges from our parishioners are the foundational element for St. Paul's annual planning. Regardless of size, *every single pledge* enables us to serve Christ and our community more effectively. If, for example, 10 of our parishioners gave \$10 a week to

support our mission and ministry, that's more than \$5000 a year. If 10 parishioners were able to give \$100 a month that's \$12,000 a year toward all that makes St. Paul's what it is. Whatever you give, it matters!

5. If I give a pledge, it means my pledge has covered all the bases.

The Annual Giving Campaign supports St. Paul's *operations*, including everything from the salaries of our clergy and staff, to the upkeep of our facilities, to the utilities that keep the lights on. These items make up the underground "root system" that makes all the good ministry we see "above ground" possible. In addition to the Annual Giving Campaign (or pledge campaign), our parishioners are also invited to support particular outreach efforts like St. Nicholas Day (coming soon!) around the year. These are opportunities to give *beyond the operating budget*, stretching the reach of Christ's love and compassion even farther.

Grow with us - We are Rooted in Love!

Learn more about our here [Annual Giving Campaign](#)

Find a printed or online pledge form here:

