

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING STEWARDSHIP

### WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is the broad term used to describe the process by which parish households provide financial resources to support the mission and ministry of St. Matthew's Church.

### WHAT IS PLEDGING?

Pledging is the means by which one indicates the amount of income or assets that one intends to contribute to the parish in the upcoming year. Pledging allows the parish to develop a budget for the year that is in line with expected revenues. At St. Matthew's we ask every household to consider making a yearly pledge, no matter the size.

### WHEN CAN I MAKE A STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE?

Stewardship pledges may be made at any time, although the Vestry asks all current parish households to pledge by Pledge Sunday (typically a Sunday in mid-November).

### CAN'T I JUST PUT MONEY IN THE PLATE?

St. Matthew's will benefit from any money received whether by pledge or plate offering. But, by making a pledge, not only are you making a stewardship commitment, but you are also helping the church as a whole to practice good stewardship. Pledging gives us an idea of how much money St. Matthew's will have to carry out its mission in the upcoming year. This is critical information for our church leaders. It enables them to make conscious, purposeful decisions about funding programs, ministry, staffing and maintenance.

### WHEN AND HOW DO I MAKE PAYMENTS?

Pledge payments may be made at any time during the course of the calendar year. Most households choose to make weekly, monthly, or quarterly payments. Others opt to pay in one lump sum.

If you wish, you may pay your pledge through a gift of stock. Details on how to set this up can be found in the Parish Office.

### IS MY PLEDGE TAX DEDUCTIBLE?

Absolutely! St. Matthew's provides a receipt at year-end for your tax-deductible contributions for that year, but only if you pay by check, credit card, stocks or use a pledge envelope for cash.