



Frequently Asked Questions About Stewardship

Holy Spirit has great momentum as we look ahead to calling a new rector.

Each year it takes about \$420,000 in annual gifts to support the people and programs that do God's work in our church community.

Stewardship, in simplest terms, is recognizing that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God and being grateful and generous with those gifts.

What does that mean in practical terms for Holy Spirit?

It's about linking this gratitude to the care of our faith community. The financial gifts of our parishioners each year are how we sustain our staff, church buildings, programs, operations and outreach.

Why do Episcopalians call stewardship a spiritual practice?

Like prayer, meditation or participating in worship, giving in thanksgiving and in community helps remind us that our needs are met by God, that we are linked to each other through Baptism, and that giving opens us more readily to accepting God's gifts to us.

Is my stewardship defined only by the money I give to the church?

Your time, talents and service are also key parts of stewardship, and we're grateful for all that you do.

Everything that happens at Holy Spirit is brought to you by you.

What is an annual gift and why is it important?

The annual giving of our parishioners supports nearly 80% of our entire budget, so it's central to everything that happens at Holy Spirit. As we say, "Everything that happens at Holy Spirit is brought to you by you."

Each fall, we ask everyone at Holy Spirit to share their goal for giving in the year ahead. We fill out "giving cards" with the amount we hope to give and place them in the offertory plates on Stewardship Sunday, which is November 2 this year.

It doesn't matter if you contribute weekly, monthly, twice a year or once a year – this annual gift represents your financial support of the mission of Holy Spirit for next year. Many people put a check in the plate every week. Others use PushPay or automated payments to contribute.

Why not just put money in the offering plate instead of making an annual gift?

We're very grateful for plate offerings. But filling out a giving card helps us plan for the upcoming year. (It also allows us to provide you with a giving statement that can be helpful in tax preparation.)



Thank you for all you do to support Holy Spirit!

How much should I give? What is expected?

We encourage you to give a gift that is a meaningful percentage of your income. Imagine if Warren Buffet gave the biblical tithe of 10 percent to Holy Spirit – it would be a great deal of money, but it might not be meaningful in terms of his day-to-day life. On the other hand, for a senior on a fixed budget or a young person starting out who has to budget down to the last dollar, a pledge of one or two percent may be highly meaningful. Some give much less. Some give much more. If we can all give a gift that is meaningful to us, we can reach our goals.

Why don't we use Memorial Fund monies to fund our operations?

We do. Our Memorial Fund provides about \$26,000 yearly, or 5 percent of our total revenue. But most of our budget comes from annual gifts from parishioners.

What happens if I make an annual gift commitment and find that I cannot fulfill it?

That's not a problem. Just call or email the church office at any time. We know people's financial situations change over time, both up and down, and we will keep all conversations confidential. No matter what, you are still very much welcome at Holy Spirit.

How do I make an annual gift to Holy Spirit?

Watch your mail in the weeks ahead of November 2. Giving Cards also will be available at the church entrance, in the Parish Hall, in the pews and in the office. Place it in the plate or mail it to the office.