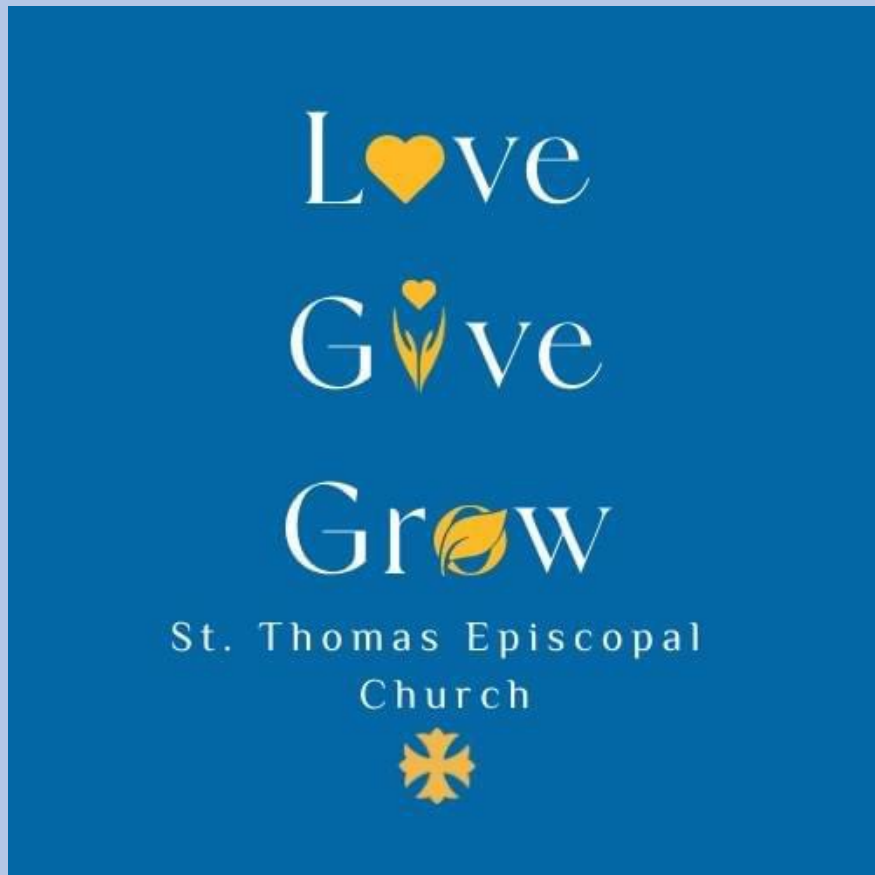


Annual Stewardship Campaign 2023



To Know Christ's Love, and to Make It Known

Saint Thomas Episcopal Church
College Station, Texas

We need you!

We invite you to join us in supporting God's mission at St. Thomas as you prayerfully consider your pledge for 2024. Your pledge will make a positive impact on the church by enabling us to keep moving forward, to plan carefully and responsibly, and to strengthen and support our parish and ministries.

LOVE

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Ephesians 5:25.

GIVE

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
Corinthians 9:7.

GROW

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen!" Peter 3:18.

What is Rally Day?

Each August, St. Thomas celebrates the kick-off of our Fall programming, our ministries, and the beginning of the season of Stewardship. We call this day of celebration RALLY DAY! This annual tradition includes food, fellowship, fun activities and an opportunity to be involved by pledging to give of your time and talent to support our parish and local community.

How to Make an Annual Pledge

Visit our website at www.stthomasbcs.org, click on GIVE, and follow the prompts. Or you can return the pledge card which will be mailed to you in early October. Your investment helps us provide meaningful programs in addition to covering our annual operating expenses.

Ways to Give

TIME AND TALENT

Give your time and talent to any of the many ministries of St. Thomas. Choose one or several ways to be involved. For example, become an Usher, Greeter, Reader, or Chalice Bearer. Join the Music Ministry, Audio/Visual team, Alter Guild, or participate in our Christian Formation programs!

GIVE ON-LINE

Click on the link <https://www.stthomasbcs.org/give> . This allows you to provide an offering to St. Thomas or help support other ministry initiatives. This is a secure giving platform and your information is fully protected and private.

GIVE BY CASH OR CHECK

You may simply place your cash or check in the collection plate passed around during the church service. Please make checks payable to “St. Thomas Episcopal Church.” If by mail, send to ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 906 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840, Attention: Parish Administrator

GIVING STOCK/SECURITIES

This is a great way to give in a tax efficient manner. Please contact the Parish Administrator for complete instructions and have the number of shares and type of security available.

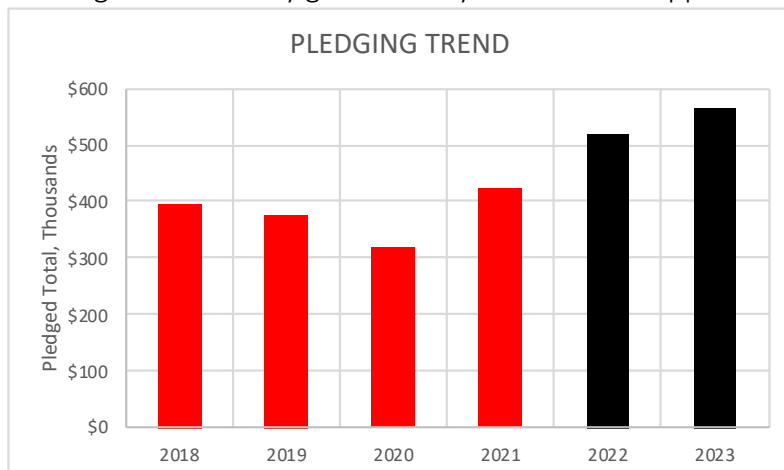
A Prayer for the Right Use of God’s Gifts

Almighty God, whose loving hand hath given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor thee with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-Book of Common Prayer, p. 827.

OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE

As can be seen below, our pledged numbers have been moving in a strong, positive direction beginning in 2022. This year, our goal is to raise \$595,000 to sustain and grow our programmatic offerings. We are very grateful for your financial support! Thank you!!!

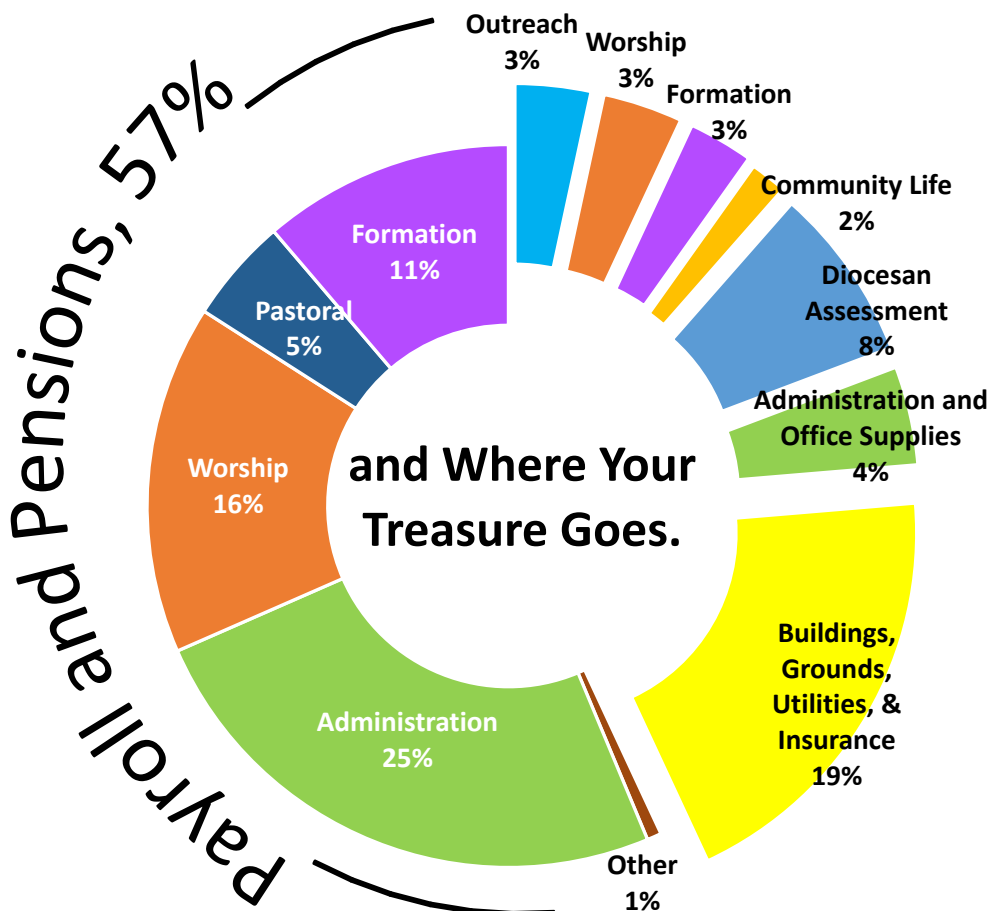
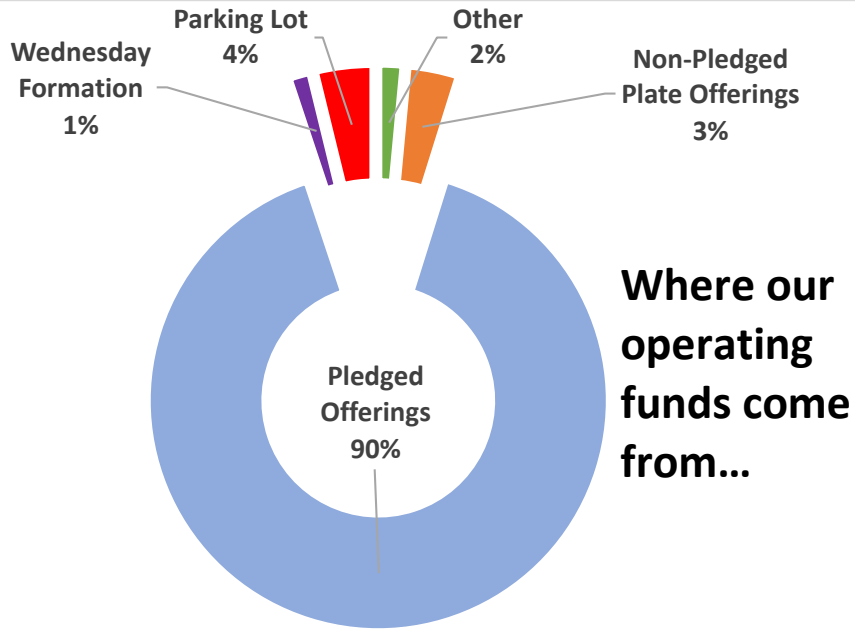


The Good News Is...

- We have operated on a balanced budget for the last two years.
- The pledged amount in 2022 was a record for the church, and that record was broken in 2023.
- As a result of your pledges made and gifts received, we upgraded the audio system in our sanctuary, and we repaved our parking lot and improved its lighting.
- The size of our Wednesday Christian Formation classes has more than doubled over the past two years.
- Our church is growing with more than 20 new pledging households in 2023.

Our 2024 budget is anticipated to be nearly flat, after adjustment for inflation, and our goal is to continue to increase the breadth of programmatic participation in the church's services, activities, and ministries.

In both 2022 and 2023 approximately 50% of our pledge cards were never returned, and we were more than 10% short of our goal at the end of the campaign. It took a dollar "for" dollar matching gift to achieve our fundraising goal in both years. Our challenge this year is to achieve our goal without having to rely on a last-minute offer of a matching gift to close the gap. The opportunity we have is that from FY2018 through FY2023, the number of pledging households has remained nearly constant at 50%. So, the opportunity to increase the number of households who can find it in their hearts to pledge will help us maintain our financial health, continue to grow, and to flourish.



GIVING Questions and Answers

Why fill out an Annual Pledge Card? Isn't an offering in the plate enough?

Your annual pledge makes it possible for us to build a responsible church budget and to plan for our work together. Even if you cannot pledge, our goal is for everyone to return a pledge card to show the invitation was considered.

What if I can't give very much?

All gifts are received with deep gratitude and appreciation. God loves a cheerful giver, whatever the amount. God sees the heart!

Does everyone make an annual pledge?

Our hope is for every parish household to find it within their heart to pledge some of their time, talent, and treasure in support of our budgeted programs. Your gift makes these activities possible and helps our church flourish.

Don't we receive money from the Episcopal Church?

No. St. Thomas is responsible for our own financial health, and we even pay an annual assessment to the Diocese for support of Diocesan staff, clergy insurance, resources provided by the Diocese, and more. The Diocese does generously give out grants for specific projects, and yes, St. Thomas has been the beneficiary of several grants.

What are the ways I can give? Must I pledge money?

You can pledge your TIME, TALENT, and/or TREASURE. St. Thomas needs your treasure to cover its operating costs, but we also need **you** as parishioners to contribute your time and talent to the many ministries of St. Thomas.

What if I need to change my pledge?

We know that life circumstances can change for any of us on short notice. Your pledge may be changed at any time by contacting the Parish Administrator.

I've just joined. May I make a pledge at any time?

Yes! Pledge cards are available in the Church Office, or you can pledge on-line by following this QR Code.



Fr. Korey Wright, Rector

Contact Us:

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
906 George Bush Drive
College Station, Texas 77840

Phone: (979) 696-1726

Email: churchoffice@stthomasbcs.org

Web: stthomasbsc.org