

Giving and Pledging Frequently Asked Questions



Q: What does it mean to make a pledge?

A: Faithful stewardship is a commitment to manage one's time, talents, or money as an expression of faith and a personal response to God's generosity. An annual pledge represents a monetary commitment to help Trinity to fund ministry and church operations, based in the faith that guides your stewardship of all your resources. A pledge is a statement of intent, not a legal obligation. It can be changed at any time.

Q: How do people decide on how much to pledge?

A: Pledging is a personal or family decision and many factors can go into deciding how much to pledge. At Trinity, we encourage parishioners to consider their pledge as a percentage of their income, rather than as a fixed amount for all. An advantage of committing a percentage of income is that this approach has the flexibility to naturally adapt as our incomes change over time. We have also encouraged Trinity members to annually consider taking a step up in their percentage giving, with tithing (10%) as an ultimate goal.

Q: I just gave money or a pledge for the capital campaign. How is this different?

A: Capital Campaign pledges and gifts fund a short-term set of projects to update and strengthen our buildings. Annual pledging funds the everyday, every year ministry of Trinity.

Q: How does Trinity use the funds derived from Annual Pledges?

A: Annual pledges provide the funds necessary to keep Trinity operational from day-to-day, all year round. They pay for the clergy and staff who lead our worship services and music, who provide inspiration and leadership for teaching of children, youth, and adults, manage the communications and building. Pledged funds also pay for maintaining the building in comfort with heat, A/C, and light, and for the materials and technology needed to support all of our ministries. All pledges are greatly appreciated and funds are carefully spent with oversight from the Vestry.

Q: Do I receive a statement?

A: Yes, you will receive periodic statements of your contributions during the course of the year, both for your tax records and to confirm the accuracy of our records.

Q: How do I pay my pledge?

There are many ways to pay a pledge. The most common are a check by mail, electronic transfer online, or by using cash or check placed in the offering plate in person. Gifts through Appreciated Securities, Donor Advised Funds, or Qualified Charitable Distributions are also options, and these may provide tax advantages for the donor. Additional details are provided on our website:

<http://trinitymoorestown.org/donate/>. Please contact the church office for further information, as needed, for your specific situation.



Giving Story - David Shaw

A little more than six years ago Jane and I first walked through the doors of Trinity church. At the time, we were living in Minnesota and visiting our son and daughter-in-law in south Jersey. It was pre-pandemic. We had already decided we would eventually relocate to the area but did not have a timeline. So, we were not church shopping – simply visiting on a Sunday morning in an area we did not know well.

I clearly remember my reaction upon entering the church. Wow. What a wonderful space. We settled into a pew, were moved by the music from Vernon and the Choir, challenged to think by Mother Emily's sermon, smiled at the youth participating in the service, listened to announcements about sandwich making for St. Paul's, bible study, and fellowship activities. As we knelt at the rail we were both feeling – this is something we might want to be part of.

The pandemic and remote work accelerated our timeline for relocation and within a few months we were living in south Jersey. Of course, our early experience as members of Trinity was a bit different than that visit. Our first official service as parishioners was outside in the graveyard! But we were warmly welcomed, and we felt sure we had found a new spiritual home.

We all have our own reasons for being part of this community. And what is most important to us can change over time, through the course of our lives. For Jane and I right now, it's a combination of worship, music, fellowship through our many parish activities, and an opportunity to participate in outreach to the wider south Jersey community. As we watch the youth in the service every Sunday, we think about our young grandchildren, and thank God for the talented and dedicated people leading our Christian Formation activities.

It's not easy to keep all of this going. Caring for an historic building, creating a calendar of events that can accommodate the time pressures young families face, maintaining an inclusive community where all feel safe and welcome... And yet, our community is vibrant and growing! We have experienced a lot of changes over the last couple of years. We have become a congregation that relies heavily on people stepping up and sharing the gift of their time and talents. In many ways this seems only to have strengthened our bonds.

This is why Jane and I give to Trinity: yes, it's about what I talked about above – what we get out of it – but perhaps more importantly, it's because we believe the world needs more of this. More of what we do at Trinity. More worshiping God, more children learning about Jesus, more outreach to those in need, more inclusive safe spaces that welcome everyone... That is why we give.

Thank you for your presence, for the special gifts of time and talent you share, and for your continued financial support.



As you read this story and consider making your 2026 financial commitment to God's work through Trinity, reflect on your own story:

- What gifts of others help nurture your relationship with God at Trinity?
- How have you been welcomed into the community at Trinity?
- Where do you find joy in giving to and through Trinity?