

## **Frequently Asked Questions Around Giving**

Prayerfully consider how you are offering your energy, skills and financial resources back to God and in service to one another. When you practice the spiritual act of giving, you are making an investment in your spiritual health and the well-being of the community. We know that the more time, energy, or money we invest in anything, the more we are connected to it.

### **What will my financial contributions be used for?**

Your contributions to St. Simon's support our mission and ministry. They support current programs and ministries that sustain the congregation and help us connect with our neighbors, such as Technical Production for our Hyflex worship, our Music Program, Altar Guild, Adult Formation, Outreach, and Parish Life.

The annual budget of our parish funds our current regular ministry. This includes our clergy, our staff, insurance, the expenses of running a parish, and ongoing maintenance of facilities and landscaping, all of which allow us to fulfill our mission that everyone experiences the abundant life that Jesus came to bring.

### **Now that we have closed on the sale of our parking lots, what are we using the money for?**

Ideally a gift like this, and any income it produces, should be used for new and innovative ministry initiatives, debt reduction, or major facilities expenses. The profit from the sale will be invested and the Vestry has set three priorities for the use of income those investments earn. Part will be used to fund new ministry initiatives serving our neighbors. Part will be set aside for major unplanned maintenance of our building. And part will be used to help fund our current regular ministry budget. The purpose of our building and of all our money is to fulfill our mission that everyone can experience the abundant life that Jesus came to bring.

Here's where your annual giving makes a huge difference. The less we use this investment income to maintain our current ministries, the more funding we have available to try new things, engage our neighbors in meaningful ways, and meet the needs for delight, basic needs and connection to community that are all around us. Imagine what we can do: repurposing the second floor as lodging for families of seriously ill patients at NCH; or establishing our own food pantry, or bringing our kitchen up to code so that it can be used for cooking for outside groups! Your generosity and regular giving fund our current regular ministry budget. The more you give toward that budget, the more investment income we have left to spend on our vision of what is to come.

### **What is a giving estimate? Why share an estimate instead of just giving?**

A giving estimate is a non-binding expression of the amount of money you plan to give in a calendar year. Having these estimates helps our leadership create a realistic annual budget.

### **What happens if I cannot fulfill my intention in a year?**

We all experience and understand changes in circumstances. If you find yourself unable to fulfill your commitment, just let us know. You are welcome to make adjustments to your estimate any time during the year.

### **How long is the giving period?**

The giving period is a year long. During our Giving Season, we are asking for your giving estimate that covers the calendar year beginning January 2025.

### **How much should I give?**

We welcome any amount but encourage you to submit an estimated amount that is personally meaningful. The Bible suggests 10% of one's income, in recognition that all we have is God's. Giving estimates at St. Simon's range from \$50 to \$18,000 annually.

### **Do I give weekly?**

Some parishioners do. Others give monthly, quarterly, or yearly. It's completely at your discretion.

### **Are giving envelopes available?**

Yes, please email the [office](#), to request them.

### **Do you offer electronic giving?**

Yes, we use **Automated Clearing House** (ACH). You can make one-time payments through this system or set up an automatic deduction for a specific amount and time from your checking or savings account.

You can also use credit cards (Discover, Master Card or Visa).

You can set up an automatic payment through your own bank.

To make your offering by text, just text the word **saintsimons** to **73256**.

### **What other forms of giving are available?**

We accept IRA rollover gifts and stock transfers for those who wish to do so. Please contact our **assistant treasurer** for additional information. Some families also choose to give through donor-advised funds with institutions such as Fidelity and Charles Schwab, where they transfer stocks or mutual funds to the institution and from there donate to St. Simon's.