

In a sermon Fr John gave earlier this fall, which can be read or watched at [saintmatthiasoakdale.com/giving-sermon](http://saintmatthiasoakdale.com/giving-sermon), he emphasized the good news that the amount any of us give to the Church has no impact on God's heart toward us or our standing with Him. While local churches (like our own) rely entirely on parishioner giving for their survival, and giving can be spiritually beneficial in many ways, God invites us to give voluntarily out of love for Him and others as we learn to trust in His provision for what we need.

Like many parishes in the Anglican tradition, we hold an Annual Stewardship Drive each fall to assist our Vestry in planning our budget for the upcoming year. This year’s drive is themed “Home Improvement” and will run from October 29 through November 26. This narrative budget booklet is meant to inform parishioners of our anticipated operating costs for running the parish in 2024 along with some outstanding property improvement & deferred maintenance projects the Vestry would like to begin addressing in 2024. The results of the Stewardship Drive will help the Vestry discern whether we will be able to complete some of these projects in 2024 or just continue saving toward their future completion. To that end, we invite parishioners to read this information and prayerfully consider pledging to give financially in 2024, not under compulsion, but out of love for God and others.

## Background on Building Purchase & Property Improvement

In 2016, our Parish lost ownership of our buildings on the corner of First Avenue and F Street as a result of our Diocese’s disaffiliation from the Episcopal Church in 2008. But God provided a way for us to purchase these buildings back from the Episcopal Church in 2022 for \$765,000. This purchase included a (25 year) \$500,000 loan, which increased our operating budget, and a \$265,000 down payment, which left our savings fairly lean.

However, in the year and a half since, the Vestry authorized the deferred maintenance projects, as well as property upgrades deemed necessary for facilitating ministry. These are listed below, along with a few particular projects that were gifted by parishioners. Essentially all of these costs have ended up being off-set by parishioner gifts for property improvement.

Project	Completed	Cost
Handicap Ramp in Chancel	2023	\$3,700*
Handicap-friendly pews + Pulpit adjustment	2023	\$950
Classroom Building: Electrical & HVAC Upgrade	2023	\$7,142*
Child-safe Wrought iron railing into Classroom Courtyard	2023	\$650*
Courtyard Fountain Upgrade	2022	*
Porch Lights Upgrade	2022	*

Remodel closet into Classroom Courtyard Entrance	2022	\$3,640*
Office HVAC Replacement	2022	\$4,000*
Parish Hall 2-year Roof Cert.	2022	\$800*
<b>Completed projects:</b>		<b>\$20,832 in known costs</b>
Replace marquee sign	Pending	\$1,700*

*\*Donated by Parishioners*

## Stewardship Drive Goals for 2024

As we plan for 2024, the Vestry has identified four projects as the most pressing needs for stewarding our buildings. We hope to use any excess funds given in 2023, as well as any additional funds pledged for 2024, to complete some or all of these projects in the next year.

Priority	Project	Cost <sup>^</sup>
1	Re-roof Parish Hall	\$18,000
2	Replace All Gutters	\$7,700
3	Repair Dry Rot on south side of Classroom Building	\$3,100
4	Paint Exterior of Buildings	\$18,400
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,200</b>

<sup>^</sup> *These prices reflect bids received in the past six months. However, actual costs are subject to change, particularly due to volatile pricing of material.*

If giving in the final three months of 2023 matches our projections, we expect to net approximately \$22,000 by the end of the year. In 2024, we do anticipate some increased expenses, particularly in regard to insurance; however, we begin this Stewardship Drive optimistic that parishioner giving will cover our projected operating budget expenses of \$236,518 (see page 7 for more details). This Stewardship Drive will help us project how much we can expect to receive in excess of our operating budget, which can be added to funds we net in 2023 to cover some or all of the four projects listed on the previous page.

Expenses		Total: \$236,518	
Salaries & Benefits	\$100,300	Facilities	\$55,400
Administration	\$22,550	Professional Services	\$600
Ministry	\$32,465	Other Expenses	\$25,203

## Would you consider making a pledge for 2024?

Letting us know how you plan to give in 2024 provides the Vestry with valuable information for planning and finalizing our budget for 2024 after the pledge drive concludes. Will you prayerfully consider pledging to give financially in 2024, whether you would increase your giving, continue giving at the same amount, or even need to decrease the amount you give?

## Can non-members pledge?

Absolutely! We understand each person's spiritual journey is unique, but if you believe in what God is doing through the ministry of Saint Matthias, we hope you will consider supporting our ministry by making a pledge.

## What is a pledge, really?

Your pledge is a promise before the Lord of how much you intend to give in support of the ministry of St. Matthias in 2024. We do understand that financial circumstances can change unexpectedly. If that happens, you can always notify us at any time to make an adjustment to your pledge. But pledges made in hope or wishful thinking are ultimately detrimental to our financial planning. So our encouragement to you during this pledge drive is to take a full (and prayerful) measure of the financial realities of your situation and pledge to give in the amount that you believe God is calling you to.

## How can I make a pledge?

There are two ways to make a pledge: you can make it at [saintmatthiasoakdale.com/pledgeonline](http://saintmatthiasoakdale.com/pledgeonline) or by filling out a pledge card (on page 9 of this booklet). Pledge cards may be submitted by placing them in the offering plate on Sunday or by mailing them to Saint Matthias Anglican Church, P.O. Box 26, Oakdale, CA 95361.

## Should I give to the General Fund or the Building Fund?

Either is fine! Building funds will now go toward paying our monthly mortgage payments and future property improvements.

## Details: Projected 2024 Expenses

<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>	<b>\$100,300</b>
Clergy Salary	\$67,500
Clergy Benefits	\$32,250
Payroll Expenses	\$550
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$22,550</b>
Administration & Bookkeeping	\$9,600
Insurance	\$8,000
Phone, Internet, & Website	\$1,800
Office Equipment & Supplies	\$2,400
Software & Banking Expenses	\$750
<b>Ministry</b>	<b>\$32,465</b>
Music	\$8,265
Congregational Life	\$2,500
Clergy Supply	\$1,300
Mission	\$1,300
Conferences & Retreats	\$2,000
Sunday School	\$3,000
Subsidized Counseling	\$5,000
Other Ministry Expenses	\$9,100
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>\$55,400</b>
Cleaning & Maintenance	\$9,100
Alarm & Utilities	\$8,900
Facilities & Equipment (incl mortgage)	\$35,500
Landscaping	\$1,900
<b>Professional Expenses</b>	<b>\$600</b>
Audit & Licensing Fees	\$600
<b>Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$25,203</b>
Diocesan Assessment	\$24,203
Other Expenses	\$1,000



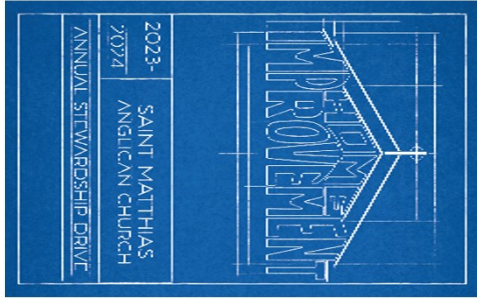
# Other F.A.Q.s

## Why is fulfilling my pledge through BillPay better than giving through the parish website?

We welcome anyone to use the online giving service available through the website. However, with each transaction through the website the parish incurs a small service fee. Therefore, we ask you to consider using BillPay through your bank instead. BillPay is an online service offered by most banks that provides the convenience of automated payments typically without any fees. If you would like to switch from online giving to BillPay, e-mail church@saintmatthiasoakdale.com and request that your recurring payment be cancelled. Then, be sure to set up BillPay with your bank and schedule your offerings to be sent to P.O. Box 26, Oakdale, CA 95361.

## Whom should I contact if I have further questions?

Direct any further questions to Fr John, our Treasurer Traci Yazembiak, or any Vestry member. Current Vestry members include Barbara Cortese (Senior Warden), Larry Johnson (Junior Warden), Josette Adams, Justin Black, Bruce Curtis, Nan Gravel, Linda Reiff, Roz Taulbee, & Barbara Vasko.



### 2024 Pledge Card

I pledge to support the ministry of Saint Matthias Anglican Church in 2024 with an offering of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (select one)  per week  per month  for the year to the General Operating Fund

#### BUILDING FUND (Optional)

Additionally, I would like to contribute to the *Saint Matthias Building Fund* in 2024 the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (select one)  per week  per month  for the year

Check here if you do **NOT** wish to receive pledge envelopes (especially recommended for those who donate exclusively through BillPay or online giving).

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit your pledge by **11/26/23** by placing it in the offering plate or mailing to P.O. Box 26, Oakdale, California 95361

Thank you for supporting the ministry of Saint Matthias!!

