



ST. BRENDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



November 10, 2022

Dear Fellow Brendanites –

Back in January, when I accepted the role of Senior Warden, I *knew* I would have to write this letter. November seemed so far off in January. And yet, November is here, and it is time once again for all of us to consider how we might each support St. Brendan's in the coming year, both financially and in other ways.

When you're in your home, take a moment to look around you. (If you're not at home, pretend you are... Yes, you can... Just try it. Close your eyes and pretend you're sitting on your couch or something. Humor me). Think about everything that it takes to keep your home "running." What would happen to your home if you just stopped taking care of it? Laundry and dishes would pile up. Dust would overtake every surface. Food would rot in the fridge. The garbage can would overflow. As bills went unpaid, your lights, heat, water, etc. would get shut off. You get the picture. Without you taking care of everything, your home would quickly turn to ruin around you. You are, indeed, the steward of your home.

In the same way that each of us are stewards of our respective homes, collectively, *we* are all the stewards of God's house... the church (and the Church).

The church (little "c") is comprised of the local church or parish and its immediate community (e.g., St. Brendan's), whereas the Church (big "C") refers to the whole of Christianity, (i.e., the collective Body of Christ).

While one could discuss and debate the differences between the church and the Church endlessly, there is at least one thing that they have in common: God dwells in them both! *Together*, they make up the House of God. Without the Church, the church has no purpose; without the church, the Church loses its arm in the community.

As stewards of God's house, we are charged with caring for and maintaining both the Church (through our ministries, outreach programs, justice initiatives, etc.) and the church (through our attendance, volunteering, and giving).

Without the care and contributions of our parishioners, our church is not long for this world. The gifts of time, talents, and treasure that we give to St. Brendan's not only help to keep the lights on in the church, but also to ensure that we can continue to fund the ministries and outreach programs that allow our parish to be such an active participant in the Church.

In the coming weeks, starting this Sunday (Nov. 13) you'll hear from a handful of people who will share how your contributions over the last year have helped both the church and the Church, and how your giving in the coming year can continue to keep them both "running." Over the next month, I encourage you to reflect on how you may be able to contribute to St. Brendan's in 2023.

Financial giving is a deeply personal and sacrificial way to give back to your parish home. Every contribution, no matter what amount, is viewed as an invaluable blessing to St. Brendan's. Whether you're able to give \$5 or \$500, every penny is priceless when it comes to the continued success of our church and our ability to continue our active participation in the Church.

Once you've had some time to reflect and determine your financial gift to St. Brendan's in 2023, it's time to make your pledge. Pledging is how you can help the parish to complete its financial planning for next year. The easiest way to pledge is to do so online, via Tithe.ly (instructions are included at the end of this letter). You may also choose to fill out a physical pledge card. Pledge cards are available in the narthex, next to the pledge box. If you're reading this from afar, you can pledge online or request a pledge card by mail.

This year, we hope to receive **85 pledges** by **Sunday, December 4**. As pledges roll in, a poster showcasing a church house in the narthex will have bricks added (each labeled to represent a vital need, ministry, event, or treasured piece of St. Brendan's that's made possible through the pledges). When we hit our goal, a fully built church house will remind us how each and every one of our contributions is vital to the church and, by extension, the Church.

All of the above being said, I recognize that not everyone is in a position to give financially at this time. While the focus of the next couple of weeks will be primarily on financial giving, I don't want anyone to feel like the next couple of Sundays are a "shakedown." Giving your time and talents is equally as important as giving financially. If you are unable to give financially in 2023, I encourage you to use the next month to reflect on how you can give to St. Brendan's in other ways. (On Sunday mornings alone, there are countless volunteer opportunities, such as welcoming newcomers, ushering, running the livestream, or helping with Sunday School or in the nursery.)

As we enter this period of stewardship, I think this letter has gone on long enough, don't you? I'll leave you with this: The next few weeks are about reflecting on how St. Brendan's has given to you over the *last* year and how you can give back to St. Brendan's over the *next* year.

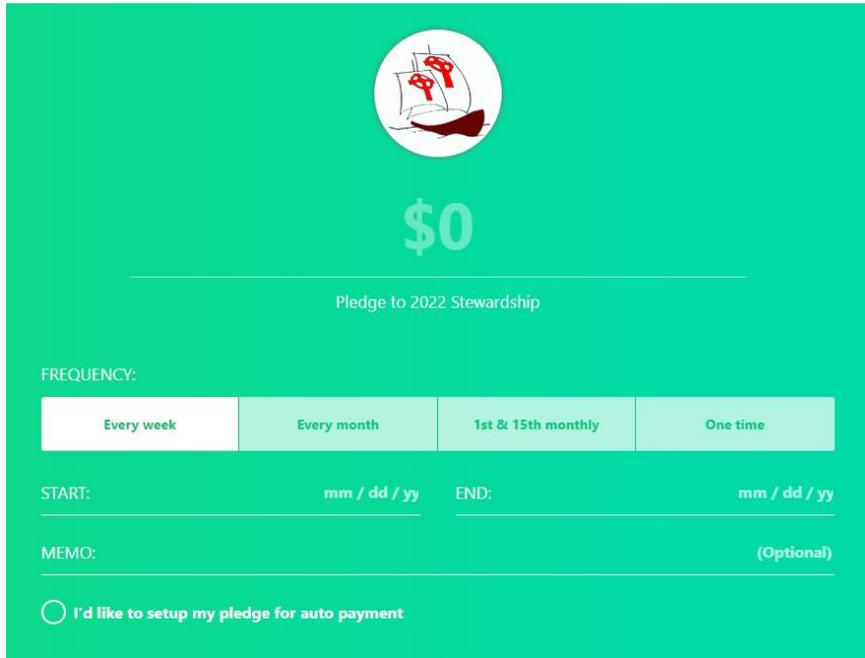
Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Grosh', written in a cursive style.

Cameron Grosh
Senior Warden

How to Use Tithe.ly to Pledge Online

1. Navigate to <https://tithe.ly/pledge/#/campaign/4466822> in your browser of choice or scan the QR code at the bottom of this page.



The screenshot shows a green pledge form. At the top is a circular logo with a white background, a red outline, and a red cross. Below the logo is a large green "\$0". Underneath is the text "Pledge to 2022 Stewardship". The "FREQUENCY:" section has four buttons: "Every week", "Every month", "1st & 15th monthly", and "One time". The "START:" and "END:" fields are labeled "mm / dd / yy". The "MEMO:" field is labeled "(Optional)". At the bottom is a radio button labeled "I'd like to setup my pledge for auto payment".

2. Fill out the information on the pledge screen

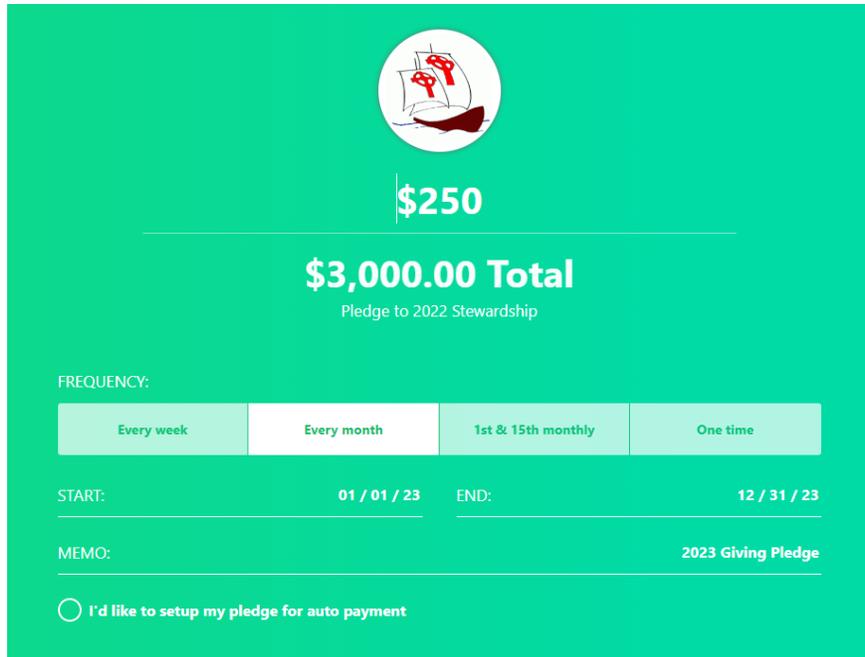
- a. Type in the amount you'd like to give with each individual payment.
- b. Select whether you'd like those payments to be made weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, or once.
- c. Enter the appropriate "Start" and "End" dates
(e.g., 01/01/23 to 12/31/23)
- d. *Optional:* Add a memo (e.g., "2023 Giving Pledge")

Note: The form will automatically calculate the total amount of your pledge based on the amount, frequency, and dates you enter.



Scan this QR code with your phone's camera and it will automatically take you to the pledge page on Tithe.ly!

The example below shows a pledge for \$250 monthly for all of 2023, which totals \$3,000 for the year.



The screenshot shows a green Tithe.ly pledge form. At the top is a circular logo of a red and white sailboat. Below the logo, the amount "\$250" is displayed in white. A horizontal line separates this from the total amount "\$3,000.00 Total" in white, with "Pledge to 2022 Stewardship" written in smaller white text below it. The "FREQUENCY:" section has four buttons: "Every week", "Every month", "1st & 15th monthly", and "One time". The "START:" field is set to "01 / 01 / 23" and the "END:" field is set to "12 / 31 / 23". The "MEMO:" field contains "2023 Giving Pledge". At the bottom, there is a radio button next to the text "I'd like to setup my pledge for auto payment".

3. Decide how you would prefer to make your payments.

There are three (3) options for doing this:

(1) Set up auto payments through Tithe.ly. (recommended)

- Simply click on “I’d like to setup my pledge for auto payment” under the memo line on Tithe.ly.
- Click on “Add Payment Info”, which will appear at the bottom of the screen.
- Enter your card or bank account information.

Did you know? For the convenience of Tithe.ly, St. Brendan’s is charged a fee and a percentage for each transaction, which adds up over time.

If everyone who gives to St. Brendan’s through Tithe.ly also covered the convenience fees for their individual payments, it could save the church hundreds of dollars every month!

(2) Set up an auto payment through your bank.

- This is another easy way to automate your giving to St. Brendan's, but without fees charged to you or St. Brendan's.
- For more information on how to set up this kind of giving, contact your bank or reach out to Katie Cervone (katie@stbrendans.org).

(3) Mail or bring checks into the church.

- The good ol' fashioned way!
- If you need envelopes, please contact Katie and we'll be happy to provide them. You just provide the stamp (and the check!).

4. Once you've completed your pledge (and payment information, if applicable), select "Add Contact Info" at the bottom of the screen. Enter your information on the next page.

5. Once you've entered your contact information, the option at the bottom of the screen will say "Pledge [Amount] [Frequency]." (e.g., "Pledge \$250 Monthly").

If the amount and frequency are correct, you can click this button and it will ask you to re-confirm your pledge.

- Click the green "Confirm" button to confirm and submit your pledge; OR
- Click the red "Change My Pledge" button to make changes to your pledge.

6. After you submit your pledge, you'll get an email from St. Brendan's (via Tithe.ly) confirming receipt of your pledge.

If it becomes necessary to cancel your pledge, this email will include a link to do so.

If you have any questions or run into any issues while submitting your pledge or setting up payments via Tithe.ly, please contact Katie (katie@stbrendans.org).