Digital Giving at St. Andrew

Keeping Up with Your Pledges

Pastor Gillian reminds us every Sunday in her sermons and also in email and Facebook messages to keep up with our pledges. Even though many things have changed and church activities have been cut back, the church's business continues and we still have bills to pay – payroll, mortgage, utilities, maintenance, etc. And we want to provide funds for our mission outreach to support our local community and other causes. In the past, most of us have provided our pledge contributions via the loose plate collections at church. However, with the restrictions resulting from the pandemic, that is currently not an option for most of us. Gillian has suggested that you mail you pledges each week to the church. In addition, I am pleased to inform you of three digital ways for you to provide your donations.

Bill Pay

I am sure that many of you use "bill pay" through your banks. If your bank is like mine, you can set up a list of merchants or other entities and request that the same dollar amount be sent from your checking account to that entity every selected interval. Your bank will then send out a check from your account to that entity at whatever interval you select (weekly, monthly, quarterly, one time only, etc.). For example, suppose you pledged $50 per week. You could set up an autopay of $50 to be paid each week to St. Andrew. Your bank would mail a check for $50 each week from your account to St. Andrew. Or, if you don't want to use autopay, you could connect to your account at any time via your computer and request a payment be made to St. Andrew of whatever amount you specify.

Your bank will probably ask for your account number at St. Andrew or allow you to include a memo with the check. As your account number at St. Andrew, you could use the sequence number on your pledge packet, or if you don't have a pledge packet, you would contact Whit Tucker and request that he assign you a number. Or you could fill in the memo field with text information to identify who the check is from and the purpose. For example, use a memo field like "John Smith Pledge $40 for Operations/$10 for Building."

Most banks provide this service at no charge to you or to St. Andrew. You can set up the payment to be made at whatever interval you desire. When setting this up, you would list St. Andrew Presbyterian Church as the entity to be paid (the recipient) and provide the following additional identifying information:

> St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
> 1885 Bridge Road

Suffolk, VA 23433

Use the "Give Now" Button on the St. Andrew Website

Another option for digital giving is to access the St. Andrew website (www.standrewpres.net) and click on the "Give Now" button at the top of the launch page. You can do this with your computer or smartphone. That will connect you to a program that you would then use to make your donation. The recipient is predetermined to be St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. You must then provide three pieces of information:

1. Your identification (so that we will be able to properly credit the donation to you). This is set up only once. Thereafter, you will log in with a userid and a password.

2. The amounts you want to donate for operating expenses, building expenses, and earmarks. If you donate to an earmark, you should then use the note field that appears on the next page to specify the specific earmark or cause that you want to support.

3. The method you wish to use to pay for the donation. You have 3 options for payment: credit card, checking account or savings account. When you initially set up your account, you will provide the credit card or bank account identifying information. Thereafter, you need only to specify the method of payment.

Use the "Give Plus" Smartphone App

You can download the free smartphone application called "Give Plus" from the Google Play Store or whatever site you use to download apps. The first time you use the Give Plus app, you will select St. Andrew Presbyterian Church as the default recipient (there are multiple St. Andrew churches listed, so be sure you select the St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Suffolk). You will then set up your account by selecting a userid and a password. You will provide identifying information about yourself and you will provide information about the source of the funds that you will use. The source can be either a bank account or a credit card.

Using the "Give Plus" app is much like using the Give Now button on the St. Andrew website. One difference, however, is important if you want to donate to an earmark. The "Give Plus" app currently has 3 accounts that you can donate to: Operations Pledge, Building Pledge and Earmark. However, it provides no way for you to specify which cause you want the earmark to fund. Thus, I suggest you use the Give Now button on the church website if you wish to donate to an earmark.

Information About the Digital Methods

We will post a couple of documents on our St. Andrew website that will provide additional information about the "Give Plus" app and the "Give Now" link accessed from our website. We also plan to conduct one or more Zoom sessions or webinars to run through use of the digital applications. I am sure you will find both applications easy to use. Go ahead and experiment with each of them.

These two applications will provide you with detailed records of your contributions that you can access at any time. You should also know that PCUSA will charge a 2% fee for each contribution made through

the "Give Plus" or the "Give Now" applications. This fee is paid by St. Andrew. Both applications allow you to fund this fee but do not require you to do so.