

The Presbyterian Church at Bound Brook

Stewardship Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God. Deuteronomy 16:17

What is Stewardship?	<p>The dictionary defines a steward as “<i>a person who manages another's property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or others.</i>” So when we speak of Stewardship in the context of living a Christian life and being part of The Presbyterian Church at Bound Brook, we are referring to the body of the congregation using the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that God has given us to further God’s work in this world.</p> <p>Another way of looking at Stewardship is captured by the idea that GOD OWNS EVERYTHING. We bring nothing into the world, and we will take nothing out, so we’re TAKING CARE OF what belongs to God. We are stewards for God and of what God has given us.</p> <p><i>Biblical references: Psalm 24:1, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Deuteronomy 8:18, Leviticus 25:23</i></p>
What is pledging?	<p>Pledging is the act of promising a monetary sum to God for His work and for the work of His Church over a specific period of time as the Bible instructs in <i>1 Corinthians 16:2: “On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income . . .”</i>. Individuals or families “pledge” to give to the Lord whatever amount they determine weekly, monthly or annually.</p> <p><i>Biblical references: 1st Corinthians 16:2, Exodus 3:19, Deuteronomy 26:1-4, Proverbs 3:9, Luke 6:38</i></p>
What is the Stewardship campaign?	<p>Every Fall at BBPC a Stewardship campaign is held to remind all church members of the responsibilities of Christian stewardship, the joys and blessings of giving back to God, and the opportunities to share what we have been given as we become part of God’s Kingdom work. Church members and friends are invited and encouraged to make a pledge of support to God’s work through the church for the following year. During the campaign individuals and families are asked prayerfully to consider making a commitment to BBPC stewardship efforts by pledging whatever amount is appropriate for them, as God inspires and guides them.</p>
How much is “appropriate” to pledge?	<p>In the Bible God asks His people for the first one tenth or 10% of the harvest. The act of giving one tenth is called tithing; however, tithing is not the “required” or “right” amount for everyone. While tithing is something to strive for, the amount an individual or family unit pledges is dependent on personal/family circumstances and on what God leads them to give. But the concept of tithing provides a good model for giving: instead of giving a set dollar amount members can pledge a proportion (percentage) of their yearly, monthly or weekly income. Regardless of the method – set amount or proportional giving – as stated in <i>2 Corinthians 9:7</i> “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”</p> <p><i>Biblical references: Leviticus 27:30, Malachi 3:10</i></p>

<p>Who at BBPC knows how much I pledge?</p>	<p>Members of the Stewardship and Finance Commissions have access to this information due to the nature of their responsibilities; however, all are sworn to secrecy. No one else in the church – not any of the pastors or other Session members or any other members of the congregation – knows the amount pledged by congregation members. Obviously, <i>God</i> knows our hearts and knows what we give.</p>
<p>How does the pledging process work?</p>	<p>During the Stewardship campaign the Stewardship Commission sends information and pledge cards to all church members and friends. Families and individuals that have – after prayerful consideration – decided to pledge to the Lord’s work at BBPC fill out a pledge card specifying the amount of their pledge for the coming year, the frequency of the gift, etc. On Stewardship Commitment Sunday all who have made the choice to pledge will present their pledge cards for dedication to God. Some choose to mail their pledge card to the church office, or put it in the offering plate, or deposit it in the pledge card box on the Stewardship table. Any and all of these methods represent great ways to offer our gift up to God.</p>
<p>What if I am a new member and join after the Stewardship campaign?</p>	<p>Pledging to BBPC is welcome at any time. If you are a new member – or someone who was unsure about pledging during the campaign – and wish to make a pledge to BBPC please contact the Stewardship Commission to get more information.</p>
<p>How many families pledge at BBPC?</p>	<p>In 2009 about 50% of families at BBPC made pledges. Our goal is to significantly increase that in 2010. Being able to plan and budget for a church year while maintaining the high quality of church programs for our growing membership is much easier for the Session to do when every church member offers their pledge of support.</p>
<p>What if I can’t honor my pledge?</p>	<p>As current events continue to remind us, circumstances do change. While everyone is encouraged to fulfill their pledges we understand that there are times when things don’t go quite as planned and trying to maintain a pledge becomes difficult. Likewise there may be cases where God blesses someone with an unplanned abundance! In either case families and individuals should make their own prayerful decision about what to give to the church, and can change their pledged amount at any time by contacting an elder on the Stewardship Commission.</p>
<p>What methods are available for paying my pledge?</p>	<p>Once a family or individual decides to pledge to BBPC, we provide traditional offering envelopes to every family at the beginning of the calendar year. These envelopes allow our members and friends to enclose cash or a check and deposit them in the offering plates on Sunday. In the future we will consider electronic options of giving including direct debit, credit cards and through the church Web site.</p>
<p>What benefits do I derive from pledging?</p>	<p>There are really two categories of benefits that congregation members derive from pledging; spiritual and practical. The simple act of prayerfully considering your gratitude to God and how you want to show your love and thankfulness with your offering can grow and strengthen your relationship with Him. Pledging for the first time or increasing your pledge also requires that you take a leap of faith, really trusting God to provide. It gives you and your family the opportunity to witness the miracle of His faithfulness to you. It also serves as a continual reminder that all things come from God and prevents us from allowing money, either through worry or greed, to control our lives. From a practical perspective pledging can become an important part of personal or family budgeting. Finally pledging and giving in a structured fashion - as opposed to just putting cash in the offering plate on Sunday – allows you to track your monetary donation and provide a legitimate receipt to the IRS for income tax deduction purposes.</p>

What benefits does the church receive from pledges?	Pledges are the financial cornerstone for all of the planning that goes into the running of Bound Brook Presbyterian Church and its ministries. Pledges – unlike the more fluid but nonetheless important unstructured gifts – gives the Session a solid basis from which to map out programs and ministries for the coming year.
How is my money used at BBPC?	All giving to BBPC is used to fund every aspect of the church’s ministries, mission, and outreach. Even though BBPC is a non-profit organization, it has staffing costs, debt retirement expenses (mortgages), facilities costs (heating, snow plowing, etc.) and other monthly costs, just like any business. But beyond that there are the costs of supporting and furthering the ministries within the church. These ministries – from the Children’s Christian Education to Fellowship and all of the other ministries in between – are what really spread the Word in our Church and our community. Keeping these programs funded helps to keep BBPC a growing and thriving house of God with a phenomenal outreach.
What is the basic cost of running the church?	In 2009 the budget for Bound Brook Presbyterian Church was approximately \$600,000. This amount represents all the money needed to cover the costs of personnel, facilities and ministries. A complete breakdown of the budget is available to all church members. You may contact anyone on the Stewardship or Finance Commissions, or the Church Office to obtain a copy of this report.
Does BBPC have a Mission commitment?	BBPC follows the Word of God when it comes to sharing the blessings God has bestowed on this church. We pledge 10% of the church’s income to Mission endeavors locally, nationally, and around the world. Many additional missions are generously supported through direct contributions by our church members. Your pledges support both the running of BBPC and its own ministries, and spread the Word of God’s love around the world to those in need.
How do I make my pledge?	If after prayerful consideration you wish to pledge to the Lord’s work through Bound Brook Presbyterian Church, stay tuned for more information during the Fall Stewardship campaign in October and November. If you wish to pledge and it is not during the Fall Stewardship campaign, you may contact the Stewardship or Finance elders or the Church Office, or look for a pledge card in the pews. You can also go to