

Sunday, October 16, 2016 is Stewardship Sunday when Brookside will receive pledges of financial support from members and friends for our 2017 operating budget. It is a good time to ask and then answer four common questions regarding the way our church asks for donations every year.

Why should I make an annual financial pledge to Brookside?

Because I believe in Brookside's mission and vision. This church, or any church, cannot exist without the voluntary donations of its members and friends. Brookside is not a business that sells a product with measurable economic value. Its "product" is spirituality as in the sense of a Christian community joined in the common worship of our God and our Savior Jesus Christ. Those who have formally joined the church as members are obliged by that covenant to provide financial support "as personal resources permit". Friends and regular attendees are encouraged to contribute to help fund the worship and other activities of the church community that may have drawn them to attend Brookside.

The total commitment of annual pledges each October is the final piece of information that allows the church to plan, calendar year by calendar year, how much it can afford for staffing, activities, and other operating expenses. It is this budget that is presented to the congregation for approval at our annual meeting in January.

How much should I pledge to Brookside?

First consider how much the church means to my faith, to the faith of people I care about—and to the faith of people who will one day soon walk in the front door. Then consider the financial support the church needs to continue functioning as a Christian community which shares the Love of God with the world around us. For 2016 the church budgeted \$345,000 for expenses. The largest expense is for the people who lead and manage the church. This is generally true of most churches and nonprofit organizations. \$182,000 of that total is for the pastor, minister of music, administrative staff, and program coordinators. \$113,000 is for the maintenance of Brookside's extensive buildings and grounds. The remaining \$45,000 is for administrative, mission, and program costs of the church.

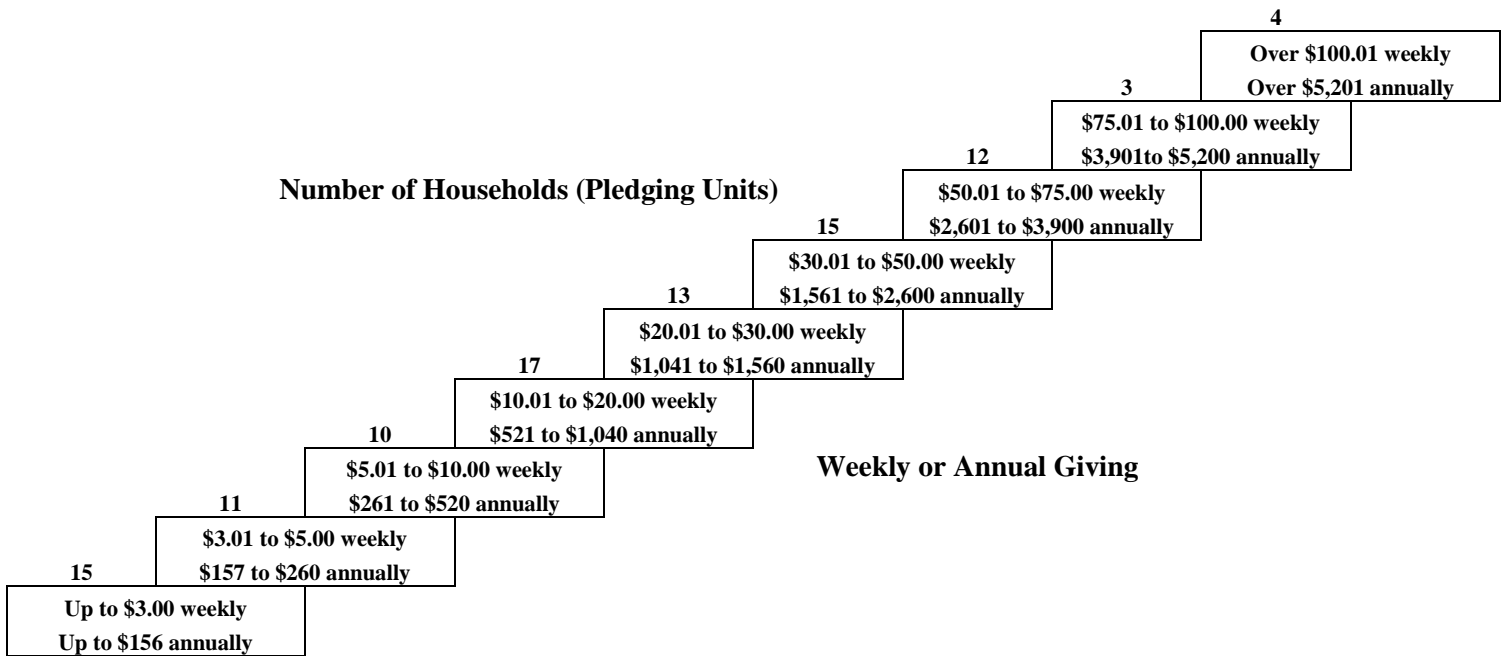
Half the church's 2016 income will come from pledges and donations: \$152,000 in pledges and \$18,000 of other cash donations. The balance of the needed money comes from investment income (distributions from the generous investment donations of past generations of members), facility rental, and thrift shop sales.

The 2016 pledge income comes from 100 pledges (each family generally makes one pledge) for an average pledge of \$1,520, or approximately \$30 a week. Broken down a little differently, each of the 263 active members of our church will give an average of \$578, or approximately \$11 a week, in 2016.

Each member and friend of Brookside must determine how much they can give according to their income and financial resources, which can change frequently over a lifetime. Some members are able to give more and some less, but every pledge is a help to the church's mission and ministry of sharing the Love of God to the world. Each and every pledge is also a help to us as individuals, helping us grow in faith into the generous people God calls us to be. No matter how large or small your pledge counts!

How does my pledge compare to others?

2016 PLEDGES RESULTS STEP BY STEP



This is the distribution of the annual pledges for 2016. Each step reflects commitment to the work of the church through donation of financial resources. Prayerfully review your resources and consider "stepping up" to help the church expand its programs for 2017.

When and how can pledges be paid?

Almost all members pay their pledges in weekly, monthly, or quarterly installments over the course of a year. The amount of the payments might be equal or irregular as resources permit. Some may choose to pay all or part of their pledge in advance of the calendar year, and if so it is always allocated to the year pledged.

- Members can use a set of uniquely numbered weekly envelopes provided on request to put cash or checks into the offering plate each Sunday.
- Personal checks may be placed into the offering plate or mailed to the church at any time.
- Electronic payments can be set up through the church website so that a routine periodic pledge or one time donation can be automatically withdrawn from a bank account or charged to a credit card. More information is available on the "Giving" page of the church website at <http://brooksidecc.info/>.

Individual donations are entered into the church accounting system and year-to-date quarterly statements are mailed to each donating member or friend so that they can see the progress toward their pledge goal. These statements also document the donations for personal income tax purposes