Can I Pay using Stock?
Yes. You may pay your pledge with the transfer of stocks, bonds or other marketable securities. Appreciated securities are often excellent for this use, as you receive an income tax deduction for the full market value of the security and incur no tax on the capital gain. For more information on fulfilling your pledge, please contact our Fiscal Officer, Gib Baily, at gib@graceepiscopalchurch.org

How Often Do I Have to Pay My Pledge?
You may pay your pledge on any schedule that suits your needs: weekly, monthly, quarterly, or in one annual payment.

What If I Cannot Fulfill My Pledge?
Sometimes, life changes unexpectedly. If you are facing difficulties, please let one of the clergy know. We are here for you and want to offer any pastoral support we can. If you feel unable to fulfill your pledge, please contact Rev. Andrew, our Rector. It is helpful for us to know as it allows us to adjust the church budget accordingly.

I Heard Something About a Capital Campaign – What is That?
Your pledge supports the church’s ongoing, day-to-day, work and ministries. In contrast, a capital campaign focuses on capital improvements or maintenance projects which cannot be covered by the church’s annual budget. The main reason for the upcoming capital campaign is that our church building needs work. The building is 60 years old, and the Vestry has identified four areas of the building in need of improvements: the heating and air conditioning system; the downstairs bathrooms; the Undercroft; and, the organ. The Vestry has decided to launch a fundraising campaign through which the parish can raise the resources necessary to take on these important building projects.

When Will That Be?
A Capital Campaign Committee has been formed, and they are working hard to prepare for the campaign. After the groundwork is completed, the capital campaign will begin. It will almost certainly be launched in the next several months.

Will I Be Asked to Give Money to the Capital Campaign?
Yes. All members of the Grace Church family will be invited to participate in and support the capital campaign.

Should I Give to the Capital Campaign Instead of Making a Pledge?
No. Your annual pledge to Grace Church is vitally important as it helps fund our day-to-day work and ministries. Therefore, you should thoughtfully and prayerfully make your pledge before considering a gift to the capital campaign.

If you have any questions about Stewardship or making a pledge, please feel free to speak with Rev. Andrew (301-585-3515) or Linda Caleb, the chair of our Stewardship Committee (301-681-8224). They would be happy to speak with you and answer any questions you might have.
Stewardship begins with an understanding that everything we have comes from God. We are blessed in so many different ways by God, who is active in our lives as well as in scripture, history and all of creation. Grateful for the gifts which God has given us, we are invited by God to respond to God’s grace by generously giving back, by sharing the gifts and blessings that have been bestowed upon us. This is not giving out of obligation, but rather, it is giving out of love and thankfulness for all God has done for us.

Grace Church is a blessing we all share.

The Holy Spirit is alive and at work here in our community as we gather each week for worship and fellowship; in the presence of our children, youth and newcomers who enrich and enhance our church family; and, in our diversity, which reflects the creative imagination of God. Our church is active and growing because people sense something special, something unique, when they walk through our doors. They sense God’s loving presence. It is truly remarkable.

We ask you to generously support Grace Church. Your commitment and support enables us to proclaim the Good News of God, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to strive for justice and peace among all people. Please get involved by sharing your time, talent and financial resources. We firmly believe that the more involved you are, the more we can do for God.

What is a Pledge?
A pledge is your promise to provide a certain amount of financial support to Grace Church for 2014. Annual pledges from church members are the main source of funding for everything we do at Grace Church.

Why Should I Pledge?
There are at least three reasons to make a pledge to Grace Church:

- A pledge acknowledges that everything we have comes from God. It allows you to share your many blessings while simultaneously furthering God’s mission of love and compassion in the world.
- Pledging helps Grace Church. The church depends upon your financial contributions to do its work and ministry. The Vestry establishes an annual budget based upon the total amount pledged to the church, and so a pledge helps the Vestry plan more accurately and better enables our ministries to thrive and grow.
- Practically speaking, a pledge lets you plan your charitable giving for 2014 and makes tax accounting easier. A pledge also makes you feel good, like any gift you give from the heart.

How Much Should I Pledge?
Because pledging is about your relationship with God and Grace Church, the amount of your pledge is up to you and should be made prayerfully and deliberately.

What Does the Bible Say About Pledging?
Historically, Christians have shown their gratitude to God by tithing, that is giving one-tenth (10 percent) of their earnings to the church and other charities. We see this throughout the Bible, and so the Episcopal Church and Grace Church Vestry affirm the tithe, encouraging members to tithe or be working toward the tithe.

What is the Average Pledge at Grace Church?
For 2013, our average pledge was $2,245/year or $43.35/week.