

A GIVER'S GUIDE TO **Electronic Giving**

YOUR MONEY SPEAKS...EVEN IF YOU CAN'T BE THERE.

Returning home last Thanksgiving, a young executive, a member of the Episcopal Church, raised a question at the big family dinner. Since he traveled frequently for work, he could only be at his church one Sunday a month— so he wanted to know:

“Why is it that I can pay all of my bills electronically, but I can't give this way to my church?”

To his surprise, his Methodist grandmother spoke up first: “But why can't you? I do it each month through a program set up by my church! It's great! I'd say at least a third of the members use electronic giving young people with busy lives, seniors on fixed incomes, snowbirds— really, anyone who loves the church but just can't be there every Sunday. At my church, we even get special slips that say, “I give electronically” that we can put into the offering plate on the Sundays we're there!”

This story says it all. There are two types of people – each is about 50 percent of the population: One group meticulously manages their checkbooks and budgets their expenses. The other group includes those of us who think they must have money in their account because they still have more checks. Both groups benefit from **Electronic Giving**, a new service available now through St. Francis Episcopal Church.

Electronic Giving automatically deducts your gifts from your checking or savings account on one or more dates each month.

Those who manage their checkbooks meticulously can ensure that their gifts are processed from their accounts regularly, even when traveling. Those who manage their checkbooks less meticulously will welcome **Electronic Giving** as a helpful friend that sets this money aside before it gets spent.

Using **Electronic Giving** gives you the power to ensure that your offerings and gifts are deducted regularly from your checking or savings accounts in a timely fashion... whether you are in church every week or only occasionally. Just as the expenses of the church continue, so will your gifts. You will have the security of knowing that the gift you offer to God through St. Francis comes first and is deducted regularly.

These days, we all want to be sure that our gifts are not reduced by costly administrative fees and overhead. St. Francis administers this service through a company called Vanco Services, LLC. St. Francis pays the low cost of only 25 cents per transaction, no matter how much you give—and the benefit to St. Francis is tremendous.

It's easy to register: complete the authorization provided with this brochure, pick up a form in the church office, or sign up online at www.stfrancismacon.com.

Electronic Giving

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: *What is Electronic Giving?*

A: **Electronic Giving** is the automated giving program of the St. Francis Church designed to make it easy for givers to give.

Q: *How is it automatic?*

A: Once you authorize the transfer, your specified contribution is electronically transferred directly from your checking or savings account to St. Francis' account.

Q: *St. Francis asks us for an annual pledge of financial support. Is this the same thing?*

A: You'll still make a pledge. Electronic giving just helps you fulfill it! For those who don't practice pledging, giving electronically still works.

Q: *What are the advantages?*

A: It saves you time and work and St. Francis benefits from more stable contribution levels.

Q: *When will my contribution be deducted from my account?*

A: On the date(s) you specify on your authorization form.

Q: *If I do not write checks, how do I balance my checkbook?*

A: Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date.

Q: *Without a cancelled check, how can I prove I made my contribution?*

A: Your bank statement gives you an itemized list of electronic transfers. It is your proof of contribution. Of course, St. Francis will continue to provide a giving statement.

Q: *Is electronic funds transfer risky?*

A: Electronic contribution is less risky than a check contribution. It cannot be lost, stolen, or destroyed. It has an extremely high rate of accuracy.

Q: *What if I change banks or accounts?*

A: Just complete a new authorization form.

Q: *How much does this cost?*

A: It costs you nothing and it saves you time.

Q: *What if I try Electronic Giving and don't like it, or need to change it for any reason?*

A: You can cancel or change your authorization by notifying the church office at any time. But, once you've enjoyed the benefits, we doubt you'll want to go back.

Q: *How do I sign up for Electronic Giving?*

A: Complete and sign the provided authorization form, then return it to the church office.

Q: *How will I participate in the offering of gifts during worship?*

A: St. Francis will have special slips available in the pews to put in the offering plate that say "I gave electronically."

Q: *What is Vanco Services and how are they related to Electronic Giving?*

A: Vanco Services, LLC is the financial technology company chosen by St. Francis as a partner in offering Electronic Giving. Vanco's e.service® provides secure, inexpensive electronic giving services to more than 6,000 churches. Information provided to Vanco is kept strictly confidential and is never sold, rented or given away.



St. Francis
Episcopal Church

Stewardship Ministry
432 Forest Hill Road
Macon, Georgia 31210
(478) 477-4616

www.stfrancismacon.com