

Giving To Bruton: Pledging for 2024 Priorities

The **Annual Fund** is our fiscal mainstay for parish operation, personnel, programs, and property. It receives revenue from guest contributions, BPC Endowment and BPC Foundation draws, and small miscellaneous sources, **but the largest source (65%) is the regular, unrestricted giving from the people of Bruton**, a projected \$1,304,000 for 2024. When received, these contributions are put to use immediately to enable Sunday worship and all else the parish undertakes. For the substantial cost of maintaining our historic and aging buildings and grounds, a maintenance reserve is built into the budget. We aim to fund it with \$50,000-\$100,000 each year.

Annual Giving 2024 commenced on November 5, inviting individuals and families to discern and submit pledges. The simplest definition of a pledge is this: a dollar figure that is a *best estimate* of the total you will contribute to the Annual Fund next year. A pledge is a commitment, but not a legally binding one. We don't ask *how* you will fulfill it-- only that you expect to do so by December 31, 2024, barring unforeseen circumstances. Checks mailed or placed in the offering plate and online contributions by credit/debit card are the two most common ways of giving toward a pledge; several other ways are listed with instructions in the brochure mailed home.

Who can pledge? The answer is anyone of any membership status, who participates in worship or enjoys other offerings of Bruton Parish Church.

2024 marks the 350th anniversary of the founding of Bruton Parish. It coincides with a major capital improvement that will occur in the church building (which is almost as old, but not quite). It will be the installation of a closed loop geothermal heating, ventilation & air conditioning system-- a full replacement of the current inefficient system that is 70 years old. As with the organ fund in 2017, **we have added a second 2024 pledging opportunity: toward the HVAC project** via the new Landmark Fund.

The **Landmark Fund** is named for the National Historic Landmark designation that the church building holds. The new HVAC will be a major step for its care and preservation. Lower utility costs, more efficient operation, and greater reliability are some benefits we will see. It will help protect the pipe organ and valuable building contents and furnishings from temperature and humidity fluctuations. With this improved climate control, the building will continue serving worshippers, concert audiences, and the wider community with people comfortably inside.

The HVAC project (\$1,250K contracted cost) is the main item in the 2024 capital expenditure budget, which is separate from the operating budget. It will be paid for with a portion of the maintenance reserve; BPC Endowment and BPC Foundation extra grants; external foundation grants; and gifts made or pledged to the Landmark Fund by the people of Bruton now through 2026.

In closing, these two funds are the priorities of Annual Giving 2024. Pledging assists the parish with financial management. For the individual or family, pledging is a practice and part of growing in faith. It results in giving that is intentional, and often more generous. Every year we have the chance to revisit our pledges. Visit brutonparish.org to pledge or give, and thank you for supporting Bruton today and tomorrow.