

ST. JAMES THE LESS NARRATIVE BUDGET 2021

Dear Beloved Parishioner,

What do you do when the thing you do is not able to be done the way you have always done it?

The best you can.

This is the year when very few of us got what we wanted, far from it, but we did the best we could with what we have. COVID-19 has changed our daily lives in so many ways, and church is the same.

I have always described church as being in the “people business.” And we were forced to be apart, with no people present. And yet, despite being so separate, we remain. There is a “We” even after a year of not being able to gather inside. We fortunately were able to have some in person events, Compline, Outdoor Eucharists, Prayer Groups, etc., but there have been no gatherings inside going on almost a year.

Looking at the budget for the year to come, we have had to shift some priorities as our needs have changed in order to respond to our current (and changing) situation. We also need to be ready for the day when we can regather outside, and later regather inside. That end is now in sight, while still months away.

Here is how we responded, the best we could in the moment. We started many new approaches, and some of the things we will keep. They have been welcome additions. Some things we will let go as they are no longer desired or needed. We also can welcome some changes to our physical space: Stations of the Cross on our campus complementing our labyrinth, our new Organ keeping our original pipes with a hugely expanded set of voices made electronically, refurbished restrooms next to the office, a moved Memorial Stone which was sinking and no longer will, and a lot of other small changes all around our campus.

We live as ‘One Together’ through our baptism, and our one faith unites us even when we have not been together physically. **While we have missed worship in our church itself, we are the one body – the feet and the hands of Jesus – we are the Church. And the Church has been busy following God’s call to us all.**

We all continue in these uncertain times. We are so glad you are here and hope you will join our effort if you haven’t already. The following pages tell the story of this year, unlike any other.



Rock+



2020 WORSHIP FUN FACTS

WORSHIP



A CHURCH IN WORSHIP DURING COVID: Led by the Rev. Rock Higgins, Rector, the Rev. Becky McDaniel, Priest Associate, and the Rev. Deacon Harrison Higgins, our varied worship opportunities require the involvement of volunteers each week. In March we had to move most everything online for our services.

- SJTL offered 101 Weekend Services. Sunday Morning Prayer and Eucharist services had over 8,973 views from April through December
- SJTL offered 250 Weekday Services. Wednesday Morning Prayer services had over 2,667 views from April through December
- SJTL Facebook page, our main hub of distributing our services and information, had over 18,917 views from April to December
- We had over 26,387 individual views of our videos that lasted longer than 3 seconds from April to December
- We had over 19,522 post engagements, 16,433 post reaches, 484 page likes from April through December
- Father Rock started a Noonday service on weekdays during the pandemic and averages 45 views daily
- We were able to find creative ways of meeting outdoors for Compline, even including a food truck so that we could safely eat together.
- We offered the Contemplative Service once a month, averaging 89 in attendance
- Although we were unable to meet in person for worship we celebrated Pentecost with a drive through blessing and receiving of Holy Water. For Christmas Eve we had a drive through Eucharist
- We were still able to offer the Blessing of the Animals
- Created multiple ways of using our property to worship outdoors.
- Stations of the Cross were created and updated every 6 weeks
- SJTL held their first Virtual Talent show & Christmas Special- “On the Corner of Beverly and Lee”





2020 OUTREACH FUN FACTS

OUTREACH and PASTORAL CARE



OUTREACH: Outreach is where SJTL truly shines! This community is full of care and love for one another and neighbor. Even not being together, we were able to support one another in very creative ways.

- SJTL Free Clinic opened, despite the pandemic, to provide free healthcare and dental care to families
- We provided Christmas gifts to 9 different individuals and families of the Hanover ARC
- We organized 2 different parades to celebrate the competition of 2 different Habitat Houses
- Supplemental Food Programs. Our food pantry provides families, qualified through Hanover Free Clinic, Community Services Board, and FeedMore referrals, with a store where they can monthly choose from nutritious food purchased from FeedMore, other stores and donations. In 2020, we provided food to approximately 400 people, about 1,000 pounds per event. We had 10 pantry events in 2020 due to COVID.
- We gathered food and supplies for the First Baptist Church Food Pantry and ACES, Ashland Christian Emergency Services
- We held a parade for our members who are shut in and can't get out
- We are still collecting pop-tops and will donate them to the Ronald McDonald House as soon as safely possible.
- Flory Markwood as her Girl Scouts Gold Project set us up with an Emergency Food Pantry outside the clinic that we keep full of donations
- Harrison held weekly Grief Groups outside and socially distanced and via Zoom calls. This ministry has served over 15 people in 2020.
- Harrison held weekly Prayer for Our Country group outside and socially distanced. This ministry has served over 20 people in 2020.
- We held monthly Supper Clubs via Zoom through the summer
- Celebrated the births of children and grandchildren, graduation for our seniors in high school and college. We celebrated the life of our dear parishioners who passed from this life to another.
- Sent bulletins, homily and newsletters to those without a connection to the internet every two weeks.





2020 EDUCATION FUN FACTS

FORMATION & PARISH LIFE



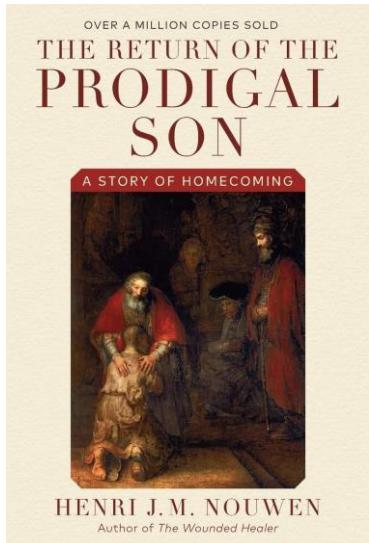
SPIRITUAL FORMATION: “To form” invites constructing, framing, producing, composing and arranging. “To educate” inspires teaching, instructing and developing. Opportunities abound within our congregation to listen, discuss, wrestle and grow in spiritual wisdom and knowledge! And we offer formation to all ages, from nursery care to the last stages of life, and everything in between. 4th Quarter groups for Seniors, Book discussion groups, Bible study, lively discussion on how to incorporate our faith into our daily life ... there is something for everyone, and all are welcome.

Formation:

- We held a book club, with an average attendance of 11, for Henri Nouwen’s book [The Return of the Prodigal Son](#).
- Held weekly Zoom Sunday School for children
- Held a Zoom meeting for Youth Group
- In person & then online Lenten Study of Howard Thurman’s [Jesus and the Disinherited](#).

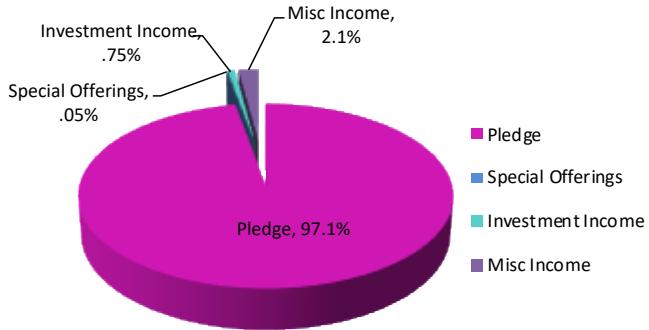
Parish Life:

- Held a capital Campaign for our new Organ and achieved the goal in record time through the generosity of our incredible community
- Remodeled the bathrooms
- Moved the Memorial Stone
- Got a new swing put in the playground
- Put up two new benches in the Memorial Garden
- Harrison created a new outdoor altar that we could use for our outdoor services
- Food truck celebrations at the picnic tables before Compline.

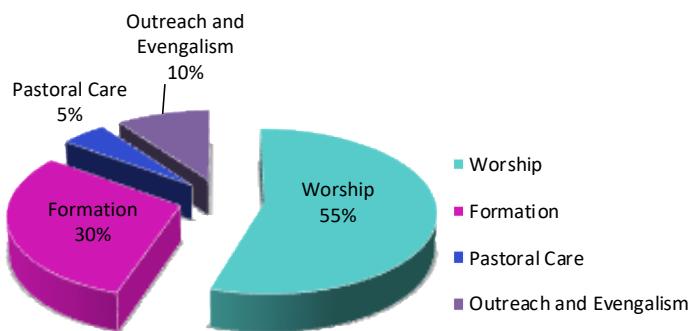


ST. JAMES THE LESS 2020 Expenses \$317,612

2020 Budget Sources (\$391,240)



2020 Budget Funding Categories (\$317,612)



PLEDGES: Just about all of the church's ministry, 96% of it, is funded by pledges from parishioners like you. St. James the Less carries on a vigorous and effective ministry. What more could we do? An average 10% increase in pledged income, in addition to continuing these missions, would allow the church to fund:

OUTREACH AND EVANGILISM: This year we have worked closely with our sister Ashland churches to be one "Greater Parish." Our Free Clinic is an example of community outreach and provides families in the community with free health visits.

WORSHIP, FORMATION, AND PASTORAL CARE: Continue to provide spiritual guidance, educational programs, and pastoral support for those in need.

- This year's balance shifted dramatically as we shifted to mainly online offerings and the huge time involved in this shift.