



Dear Christ Church Family,

As we begin this year's stewardship campaign, we first want to thank you for your presence at Christ Church. We are blessed by all who walk through our doors and hope that our worship and ministries – Racial and Social Justice, Faith and Spiritual Growth, and Outreach among them – nourish and support you in your life and on your faith journey.

This year's annual giving theme, *Christ Before Us*, comes from Bishop Mariann Budde's address to our Diocesan Convention in January 2025. Anticipating a turbulent year to come, she urged us all to anchor ourselves in our faith, meditating on the words of the prayer attributed to St. Patrick:

**Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**

For many of us this year, our church community has kept us grounded and supported in our faith through great uncertainty and anxiety. It is clearer than ever that we need each other.

The invitation to give to Christ Church is an invitation to invest in a community that proclaims and lives out God's great love for all people. In a world often marked by division and indifference, our investment of treasure signals our hope and our commitment to keep Christ before us, today and every day, loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

During the annual stewardship campaign, we gather your pledges of financial support for the coming year to ensure that we have a solid foundation to continue and grow our shared ministry. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you will contribute and complete the enclosed pledge card. Our goal this year is 135 pledges totaling \$450,000.

We know that it is not enough simply to have faith, but that we must act on that faith by serving our neighbors, working for justice, and helping to heal our world. You already do this all the time, in so many ways! Thank you for your participation and support of Christ Church.

With love and gratitude,

& The Christ Church Vestry

Christ Before Us

Racial and Social Justice

This year saw the establishment of the "Mercy Team," a network of parishioners committed to assisting and advocating for community members suffering under new government policies and actions. Educational programming included successful book clubs discussing works by Bishop Mariann and Percival Everett, a new Sacred Ground Circle, plus two Fall Forums on reparations and criminal justice reform, featuring Maryland's State Public Defender and State Senator Jeff Waldstreicher. Our advocacy moved from the pews to the public square through participation in demonstrations such as Hands-off Rally, Pentecost Witness for a Moral Budget and No Kings protests, as well as continued sponsorship of Kensington's Juneteenth Celebration. We participated in Social Justice Day in Annapolis to advocate for criminal justice reform which helped advance humane measures such as Geriatric and Medical Parole reform and the Second Look Act.



Faith and Spiritual Growth

Our commitment to Faith & Spiritual Growth for people of all ages is rooted in our belief that through discovering and exploring different aspects of our spiritual lives, we deepen our connections with God and neighbor and help others to deepen theirs. In 2025 :



Children's Ministry achieved exceptional growth, with 15-20 children attending weekly across three active classrooms. Vacation Bible School served 23 campers with 9 youth volunteers, while Children's Chapel maintained strong participation.

Adult Education flourished with "Life in the Psalms", "Praying through the Labyrinth," and the successful "Embrace" confirmation course. The ministry developed future programming including a "Being With" spiritual journey course and a forum series on the Intersection of Faith & Science.

Youth ministry gained momentum with a new "Junior Youth Group" for 6th-9th graders, active recruitment for a Youth Minister, and successful intergenerational programming including a Trinity Sunday celebration and popular Advent activities like wreath-making.

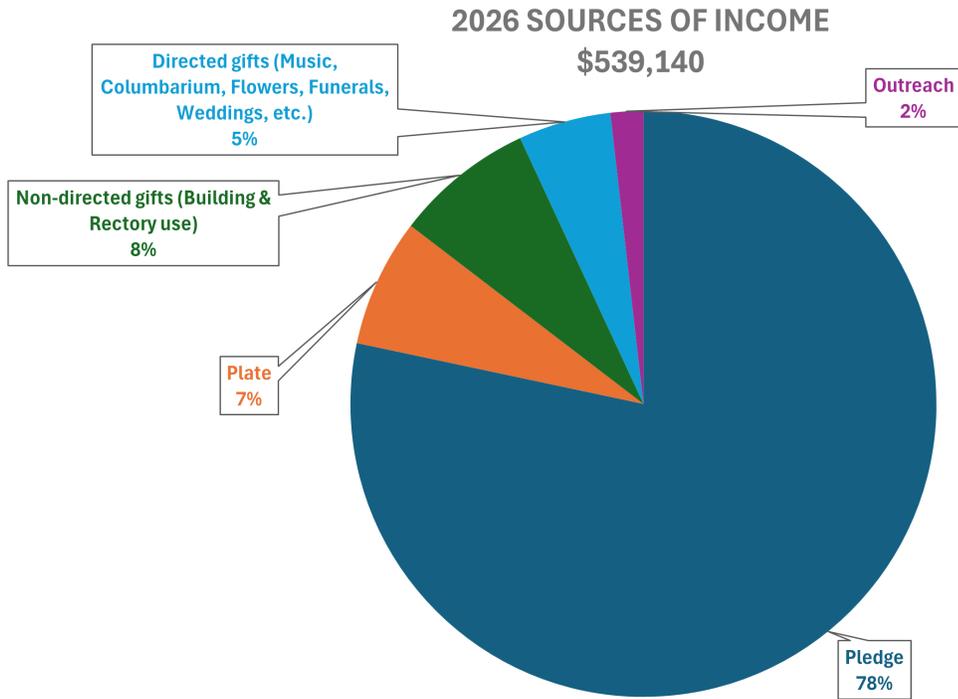
Reaching Our Neighbors

Our commitment to Reaching Our Neighbors is grounded in our steadfast, heartfelt dedication to being a community where *all* are welcome (in person and online). Outreach Ministry had another successful year participating in the Rebuilding Together home repair program, while also deepening its relationship with Food Justice DMV through monthly food packing at San Mateo Church and a "Project Rice & Beans" event in the parish hall. The Diaper Brigade continued providing essential supplies to migrant families. We continue partnership with Arcola & Rock View Elementary Schools to provide families with assistance around the fall and winter holidays. Parish families continue to provide sandwiches to Bethesda Cares clients. Clergy and staff expanded pastoral care through monthly communion services at nearby Modena Senior Living.

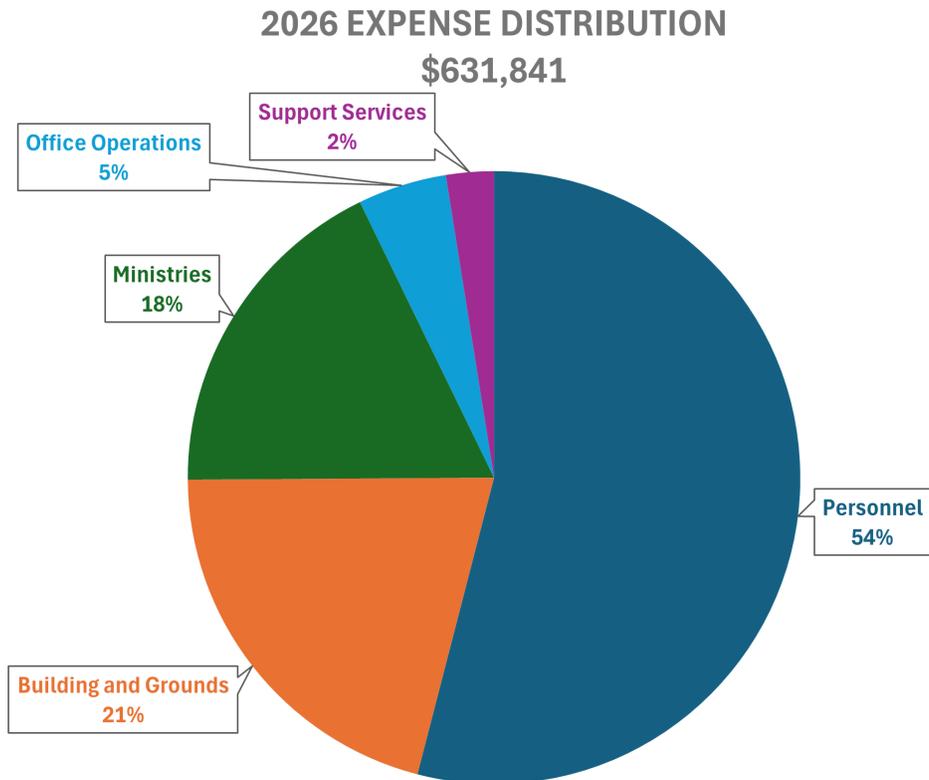


2026 Projected Income & Operating Expenses

Your pledges provide almost 80% of our annual income.



In 2026, we will close the projected income and expense gap by again tapping into our existing savings and reserves — abundance from previous generations' disciples.



Some Frequently Asked Questions about Stewardship

Why do we ask you, the congregation, for financial help? Nearly 80% of the dollars needed to keep the church open and operating come from us, the people in the pews.

What is a “stewardship pledge”? Pledging symbolizes a commitment to the parish. A stewardship pledge is your promise to contribute a specific amount to the church over the year, which can be paid weekly, monthly, or as a one-time annual gift. By pledging in advance, you help your vestry create a realistic budget for the church year ahead.

Where does the money go? Key recurring expenses include: *Salaries* for our dedicated clergy and staff; *Utilities, Building maintenance and improvement* to keep our church welcoming and functional; *Childcare* for our little ones; *Talented musicians* who enrich our worship; *Supplies* such as paper for bulletins, oil for candles, support for community building projects...and more.

What’s a good way to figure out what my pledge will be? Consider the value of the church in your life and the life of the community. In 2025, pledges ranged from \$25 to \$15,600 per year, the average pledge was \$3,407 and the median pledge was \$2,450.

Are my gifts tax-deductible? Yes, to the full extent of the law. You will receive a detailed statement at the end of the year.

Is there a minimum amount I have to pledge to be a member at Christ Church? No. All gifts, great and small, are gratefully received. Please don’t let the ability to pledge affect whether or not you show up to church. We are glad you’re here!

What happens if I can’t give as much as I pledged? While your pledge is a commitment to the church, it is not legally binding. We all understand when circumstances change.

What if I really can’t give financially? Your presence and participation are what matter most. Gifts of time and talent are equally valuable expressions of stewardship.

I’m ready! How do I make my pledge? You can return your pledge card by mail, put it in the collection plate, or pledge online by going to www.christchurchkensington.org/give.

Questions? Please do not hesitate to contact Jen Luna, our Parish Administrator (301-942-4673) or any member of the Vestry.

