



*They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes, and its
leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought
it is not anxious, and it does not cease to
bear fruit.* - Jeremiah 17:8

Christ Episcopal Church Kensington Stewardship 2024

Dear beloved friends,

Greetings! I'm truly excited to enter into a season of stewardship with you, especially one so rich with celebration and exploration. This fall we have opportunities to connect with one another, honor our history, and recommit our resources and energy to the mission and ministry of Christ Church so that it flourishes far into the future.

We are indeed *Rooted in Abundance*: trees of all varieties nourished, replenished and energized by the Spirit. Together we form a forest that breathes new life into the world.

One of the incredible blessings of my position is being able to stand back and see the big picture, the congregation as a whole, that beautiful rich and verdant forest if you will. I see the ways we collectively work to grow in discipleship, reach and support our neighbors, and build a community shaped by justice, mercy, and love.

And I get to wander amongst you - the trees. My heart melts seeing the youngest shoots excited to learn about Jesus, to participate in worship, exuding joy as they claim the community as their own. I am astounded at the strength of our mighty trees offering sheltering love to those who need it. I see the Spirit moving in individuals of all ages as they explore their faith and the very purpose of their lives. Again and again I bear witness to your generous offering of wisdom, time, and money to the church. I am blessed that I can see *both* the forest and the trees!

As we celebrate 125 years of ministry, our goal is for 125 individuals and families to collectively pledge \$425,000. I know that we can do that and more. Note that one side of the pledge card is about your estimated financial giving for the year; the other, how you want to give in other ways. Each incredibly important aspects of being in Christian community.

Throughout the year, remember that our roots draw from the stream of living water that never runs dry, nourishing us to act creatively and boldly in the world.

Blessings, love, and gratitude for all,



Rooted in Abundance

Racial and Social Justice

Our commitment to Racial & Social Justice is rooted in our baptismal Covenant to *"strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being"*. Over the past year, together we have manifested this commitment through:

- ◆ Reading and discussing together books on topics of race and social justice
- ◆ Celebrating Black History Month by supporting the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys in Southeast Washington DC, including a \$3,000 donation to support their work
- ◆ Participating as sponsors in Kensington's 2nd annual Juneteenth celebration, including hosting a table at the event



After last fall's "Conversations on Race" in which we explored the history of our church through the lens of race and racism, this year our ministry has shifted focus to Criminal Justice Reform. We hope you will join us in this effort to learn and bring about change.

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. Over the past year, together we have:

- ◆ Expanded and enhanced our faith formation programs for all ages, including weekly and seasonal programs for children and youth
- ◆ Hosted quarterly intergenerational art projects/movie nights
- ◆ Offered seasonal small group opportunities for spiritual growth and connection during Epiphany, Lent, Eastertide, and Pentecost
- ◆ Began a new discussion group for young adults, *Theology on Tap* at BabyCat Brewery

Our focus for 2024 will be on continuing to help individuals grow in their relationship with God, building Jesus-centered community, and developing opportunities for intergenerational service projects rooted in the abundant love of our faith tradition.

Reaching Our Neighbors

Our commitment to Reaching Our Neighbors is rooted in our steadfast, heartfelt dedication to being a community where all are welcome (in person and online). Over the past year, together we have:

- ◆ Begun to attract a more diverse congregation
- ◆ Continued numerous Outreach projects addressing food insecurity and poverty in our local community and around the world
- ◆ Worked with partner agencies and interfaith communities to welcome and support refugee and migrant families in our area
- ◆ Hosted more than 250 people in our building each week for meetings, concerts, and other events

Our goal for 2024 will be to expand our reach through greater investment in making our activities known throughout the wider community.

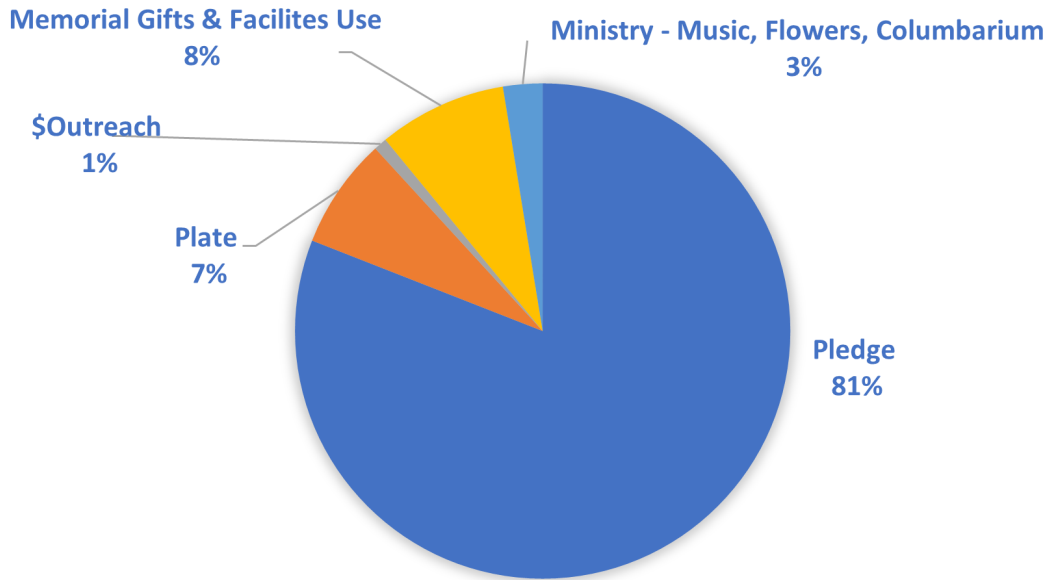


2024 Projected Income & Operating Expenses

Your pledges provide 80% of our annual income.

2024 SOURCES OF INCOME

\$525,000*



*Projected Income

In 2024, we will close the projected income and expense gap by again tapping into our existing savings and reserves — abundance from previous generations.

PROJECTED 2024 EXPENSE DISTRIBUTION

\$595,000*



*Projected Expense

* Distribution of expenses by nature of spending, i.e. building & operations costs are allocated across functional areas.

Some Frequently Asked Questions about Stewardship

What is a stewardship pledge? A stewardship pledge is a commitment, made after deliberate and prayerful consideration, to contribute a specific amount of money to the parish community. Pledging enables the Vestry to make realistic budget projections for the coming calendar year. We hope that all households will make a pledge as an expression of a vital commitment to Christ Church and support of its ministries.

What's a good way to figure out what my pledge will be? Pray. Give it to God. Pledging and giving regularly is a great spiritual discipline. The biblical tithe or giving 10% of our income is the aspirational goal. (Leviticus 27:30 says "A tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, is the Lord's, and is holy.") We encourage you to give what you can, whether it's five or five hundred a week.

What is the average pledge? In 2023, pledges ranged from \$200 to \$14,400 per year and the average pledge was \$3,620.

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

How do I pay my pledge? Payments may be made to Christ Church online through the website/Realm with either your bank account or credit card, by check, or by cash. Gifts may also be paid with appreciated stocks, donor advised funds, or IRA payouts. Giving envelopes can be requested from the office.

What if I can't give financially? Please don't feel that lack of financial giving is a barrier to your being a part of Christ Church. **Remember, gifts of works and wisdom are just as important expressions of financial stewardship.** Please use the back of the pledge card to learn more about our ministries and to offer the gift of volunteering.

Are my gifts to Christ Church tax deductible? Yes your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by federal and state law. You will receive a statement at the end of the year detailing your tax deductible contributions.

How do I submit my pledge? You can use the enclosed return envelope to mail your pledge card to the office, **or you can pledge online by going to www.christchurchkensington.org/give.**

Who can I talk to about my pledge? You can talk to Jen Luna, our Parish Administrator (301-942-4673), or any member of the Vestry about your pledge.

