

2019

*Bread for the Journey
Setting a Bountiful Feast*



A welcoming Episcopal community, united in God, called to seek and serve Christ in all persons, and to transform the world with love and generosity.



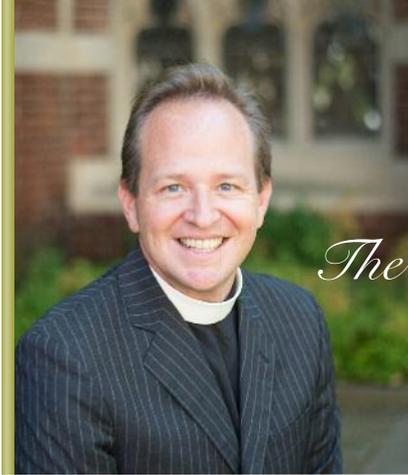
THE PARISH OF THE
EPIPHANY

A welcoming Episcopal community

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Bread for the Journey and a Table for All

The Commemoration of Alfred the Great, 26 October 2018

Dear Epiphany Family,

When I was about 12 years old, my grandparents were active leaders on their church's stewardship committee. I think my grandfather was the recording secretary of everybody's pledges (or else he was a bookie on the side!) because there was a great deal of hush-hush and insistence that I not touch the papers on his desk.

One Sunday morning, presumably pledge ingathering day, I found my grandparents sitting at their kitchen table finishing their prayers and then filling out their pledge card.

As we prepare for a new year of fruitful ministry at the Parish of the Epiphany, it may be that you will follow in my grandparents' footsteps by sitting down and praying about what you will give. Or perhaps your approach will look more like mine, and you will mull over your commitment, asking God for the courage to take one more step up.

Regardless of your approach, I challenge you to join me in asking God for greater trust. As together we seek to become more generous, let us trust that our spirit of generosity can grow only *with God's help*.

This year's annual commitment campaign borrows directly from the adult formation committee's theme, *Bread for the Journey*. It is a perfect theme because it echoes Jesus's teaching about how to pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name... give us this day our daily

bread..." and also because bread, money, time, devotion, worship, formation, mission, parish life, and pastoral care are all necessary for the journey. When we share these good gifts, there is always more than enough.

In *Bread for the Journey*, Father Henri Nouwen writes:

The table is one of the most intimate places in our lives. It is there that we give ourselves to one another.... We invite our friends to become part of our lives. We want them to be nurtured by the same food and drink that nurture us. We desire communion.... Every breakfast, lunch, or dinner can become a time of growing communion with one another.



The table, for us, is the Parish of the Epiphany. It's an intimate place where we give ourselves to each other, where we give ourselves to God, and from which we serve the world in God's name and because of God's love. With your support and time, added together with everybody else's, we can set a bountiful feast.

What follows is a description of our prayer-filled hopes for 2019. Please pray about giving generously so that there is bread for the journey and a table for all.

Faithfully in Christ,

The Reverend Thomas J. Brown
Rector

Bread for the Journey: Engaging God's Mission in 2019

Worship & Music



*Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise. —Psalm 34:4*

Your gifts of money and time will allow the Parish of the Epiphany to continue its rich tradition of worship-

ing God in the beauty of holiness. In addition to blessing our Sunday mornings of the Holy Eucharist, our renowned music program will continue to serve at the heart of our Advent and Christmas celebrations, Holy Week, and five Evensongs each year. The bread for this part of our journey will enable us to welcome guest musicians for Christmas and Easter, invite guest preachers from across the Episcopal diocese, and keep up our commitment to blend tradition with progressive expressions in language and theology.



Faith Formation

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. —John 10:10

Our children, youth, and family formation are on a strong foundation, but there is always room to grow. Will you help? With your support we can increase our excellence and continue to recruit for a youth minister or lay professional inspired to keep building a robust program for adults and families. Your gifts will allow us to reach out and disciple one another, grow our faith, connect through intergenerational fellowship, and become the Beloved Community.



Mission & Outreach

For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. —Matthew 25:35



With new leadership and refreshed interest among young families, our Mission & Outreach serves many needs, from our current focus on immigration justice

to our ongoing service to our sisters and brothers both locally (e.g., at St. Stephens) and internationally (e.g., in Haiti and Honduras). We look forward to continuing and growing our programs with the generous increase of your pledge.

Pastoral Care

If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. —I Corinthians 12:26-27

During 2019 we will adopt fully Stephen Ministry, a program in which trained lay people give of their time to listen to friends among us who are in pastoral need.

The program is led by the associate rector along with four trained lay leaders. Your pledge dollars will be used to train new Stephen Ministers and to pay for the other programs and products we offer to shepherd each other during times of gladness, and times of sadness.



Parish Life & Evangelism



I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. —John 10:1

In addition to building community through worship, events, good food, and friendship, we need your help to maintain the church's

facilities and to respond to our rapid growth among families. We look forward to continuing to welcome newcomers and strengthening our external communications. Additional resources in 2019 will give us the capacity to hire staff (or outsource to freelancers) so that our story is shared broadly. In addition to your financial support, we welcome gifts-in-kind to bolster our communication and maintain our facilities.

Expanding Our Welcome

Improving Accessibility with an Elevator

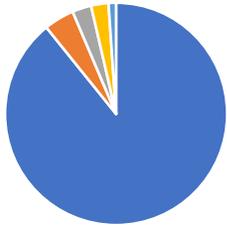
As a welcoming faith community, we strive to eliminate any barrier that limits participation. Now that the church, first-floor restrooms, meeting rooms, and soon-to-be kitchen are fully accessible, we are focused on universal vertical access. Today we are using the Upper Parish



Hall for yoga; with a new elevator we will open our doors and rooms to all. Early in 2019 all households will have the opportunity to help fund this addition to our parish, literally lifting us up as we engage God's mission.



2018 Sources of Support for Ministries



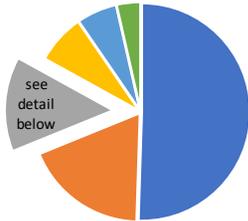
Budgeted Income **\$1,007,300**

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Pledge Income | \$898,500 | 89.2% |
| Investment Income | \$44,400 | 4.4% |
| Plate and Special Offerings | \$27,900 | 2.8% |
| Rentals and Events | \$25,500 | 2.5% |
| Special Donations | \$11,000 | 1.1% |

Budgeted Expenses

\$1,004,040

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Salary & Benefits | \$507,000 | 50.5% |
| Property | \$184,400 | 18.4% |
| Parish Life & Evangelism | \$142,040 | 14.1% |
| Worship & Music | \$74,400 | 7.4% |
| Mission & Outreach | \$60,500 | 6.0% |
| Faith Formation | \$35,700 | 3.6% |



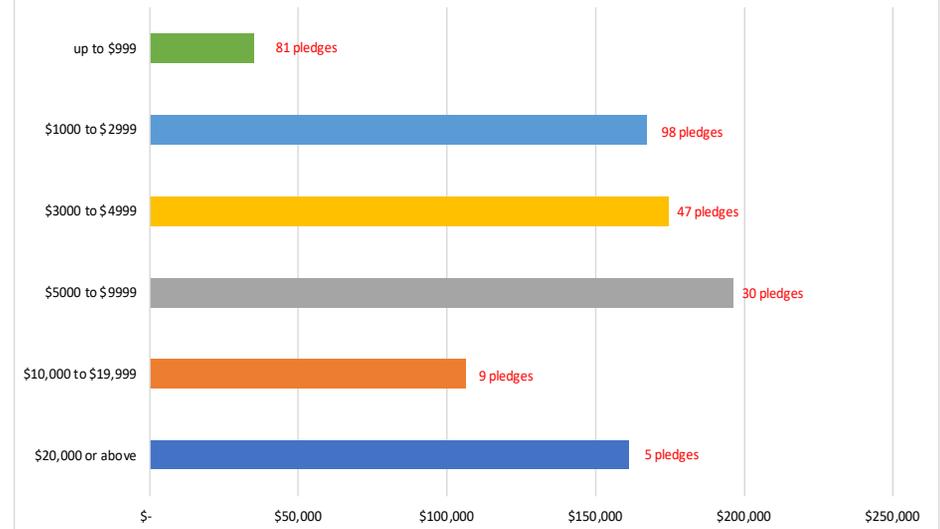
Budget for Parish Life & Evangelism

| | | |
|------------------|----------|-------|
| Diocesan Support | \$96,300 | 67.8% |
| Welcoming | \$25,600 | 18.0% |
| Pastoral Care | \$16,040 | 11.3% |
| Stewardship | \$4,100 | 2.9% |

Note: \$68,900 in administrative expenses have been allocated to other expense categories.



Distribution of 2018 Annual Pledges (270 pledges, \$840,000)



| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| \$20,000 or above | \$ 161,140 | 19.2% | 5 |
| \$10,000 to \$19,999 | \$ 106,153 | 12.6% | 9 |
| \$5000 to \$9999 | \$ 196,270 | 23.4% | 30 |
| \$3000 to \$4999 | \$ 174,446 | 20.8% | 47 |
| \$1000 to \$2999 | \$ 167,226 | 19.9% | 98 |
| up to \$999 | \$ 35,121 | 4.2% | 81 |
| | \$ 840,356 | 100.0% | 270 |

| | |
|--------|---------------|
| mean | \$ 3,112 |
| median | \$1,800 |
| mode | \$500, \$1200 |



Sharing from Our Abundance

“Set aside a tithe of all the yield of your seed that is brought in yearly from the field.” —Deuteronomy 14:22

Some may say that “stewardship” is just a polite way of referring to financial giving to the church. But stewardship is far more than that. To belong to any faith community is to be a steward.

As God’s stewards we have three responsibilities:

- ✦ **Receiving:** We joyfully receive God’s shower of gifts—time, talent, treasure, our bodies, our friendships, natural resources, and the beauty around us.
- ✦ **Managing:** We take good care of what we have received—for our own good and the good of others.
- ✦ **Giving:** In gratitude for our abundance, we share with others.



How should we think about giving away our time?

We did nothing to earn the hours, days, or weeks of our lives. Time is a gift from God. How we choose to use it is a matter of stewardship—keeping some for ourselves as well as gladly giving some to family and friends, strangers, the community, and the church.

How should we think about giving away our money?

We may think that our financial resources are our own, but they belong to God—because everything does! The questions about what we earn, how we earn it, and how we save, spend, and give our money away are all questions of Christian

Thank you so much for accepting us into your wonderful community. From the first time we entered the building, everyone has been so eager to greet us and make us feel at home. We feel blessed to be able to raise our son Brooks in such a positive environment full of so much love.

—Matt, Kelsey, & Brooks Gentile
Medford, MA



stewardship. Our mission is to share Christ by learning, telling, and living his story. Our offerings enable us to help more people locally and around the world experience a powerful and life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Will you be Bread for the Journey?

If you have made a financial commitment for 2019, thank you! If you have not yet had the chance to do so, please STEP IN and help support our parish's life-giving ministries. Every commitment, no matter the size, counts. The giving chart below shows how annual giving is distributed at the Parish of the Epiphany. In 2018, 270 Parish of the Epiphany families made a financial pledge. Where do you find yourself on this chart? Please prayerfully consider how you can STEP UP and increase your 2019 pledge to a level that best reflects the many blessings God has given you.

| Proportional Giving Chart | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Annual Income | 2% | 5% | 7% | 10% | 15% |
| \$ 25,000 | \$ 500 | \$ 1,250 | \$ 1,750 | \$ 2,500 | \$ 3,750 |
| \$ 50,000 | \$1,000 | \$ 2,500 | \$ 3,500 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 7,500 |
| \$ 75,000 | \$1,500 | \$ 3,750 | \$5,250 | \$ 7,500 | \$11,250 |
| \$100,000 | \$2,000 | \$ 5,000 | \$7,000 | \$10,000 | \$15,000 |
| \$150,000 | \$3,000 | \$ 7,500 | \$10,500 | \$15,000 | \$22,500 |
| \$200,000 | \$4,000 | \$10,000 | \$14,000 | \$20,000 | \$30,000 |
| \$250,000 | \$5,000 | \$12,500 | \$17,500 | \$25,000 | \$37,500 |
| \$300,000 | \$6,000 | \$15,000 | \$21,000 | \$30,000 | \$45,000 |
| \$350,000 | \$7,000 | \$17,500 | \$24,500 | \$35,000 | \$52,500 |
| \$400,000 | \$8,000 | \$20,000 | \$28,000 | \$40,000 | \$60,000 |

What do we mean by proportional giving?

From the very beginning of biblical times until the arrival of Jesus Christ, it was traditional for people to set aside a percentage of the “first fruits” of their harvest for God, either through gifts given to the temple or through alms given to the poor. Traditionally the amount given was a “tithe”—the equivalent of 10 percent of an





individual or a family's income. Today we continue to hold up the tithe (10%) as a goal for the portion of our abundance that we give back to God.

Making a pledge should be a spiritual decision, reached after

prayer and reflection. Our decisions about pledging reflect central aspects of our spiritual life, including our desire to:

- ✦ Surrender a portion of our wealth to God's work.
- ✦ Have faith that we can give generously and not suffer need.
- ✦ Show joyful thanksgiving for God's grace and abundant provision.

What matters is not how much you give, but rather what percentage of your time, talent, and income you are willing to give to God's work.



All Scripture references are taken from the New Revised Standard Version. Photography provided by Celia Muto Photography. Editorial & design services by Dawn Kotapish of Wordscapes, Inc. © The Parish of the Epiphany 2018. Printed by Litho-Craft.

We are very appreciative of all that you and the choir did to make the funeral for my wife, Irene, so moving. We have been members of Epiphany for a long time, and I know Irene was there to enjoy the beautiful music. I'm sorry we live so far away now, but Epiphany will always be home.

*—Vincent George,
Marblehead, MA*

Blessing of the Annual Commitment Campaign

The First Sunday in Advent

2 December, 2018



At both services on 2 December, we will present our pledge commitments before the altar and ask for God's blessing. On that day we will also rededicate our Chapel, following a year-long effort to refurbish it. If you prefer to return your pledge before 2 December, we'll send

you a card so that on that Sunday, you can join the procession to the altar. We are confident that with your participation we will achieve our goal of 275 pledges totaling \$875,000.

Three Secure Ways to Make Your Pledge:

- 1) **Automatic Bill Pay:** Set up automated weekly, monthly, or annual contributions through your bank's bill pay feature with the Parish of the Epiphany as your payee. Your bank will notify you of upcoming contributions, and you can cancel at any time.
- 2) **Secure Online Giving:** Set up automated contributions or make a one-time gift via your checking account, debit card, or credit card at 3crowns.org. After logging in, choose "ABOUT US," "GIVING," and "ONLINE GIVING."
- 3) **Envelopes**—Indicate your preference for envelopes on your pledge card or write swestcott@3crowns.org. If you use cash, an envelope is required for the gift to be reflected on your annual statement.

Credit Card Giving: We love accepting your credit card gifts! For some, giving via credit card accumulates travel or cash back rewards. While it's not necessary, please kindly consider increasing your gift by about 3% to cover the associated fees.

