

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

**REJOICING
REUNION
RENEWAL**



70 Church Street • Winchester, MA 01890 • 781.729.1922 • 3crowns.org

REJOICING REUNION RENEWAL

Dear Fellow Parishioner,

During the coming year of our church community, we invite you into a season of *Rejoicing, Reunion, and Renewal*.

We entered into 2020 with much optimism and excitement over the prospect of searching for and calling a new rector to lead us into our next chapter as the Parish of the Epiphany. As we all know, this year unfolded quite differently. The novel coronavirus has changed all aspects of our lives, including how we worship. It has not been easy, but the leadership and the people of the Parish of the Epiphany have adapted, adjusted, and shifted in how we worship and stay connected as a community.

Our focus this year is twofold: welcoming the Reverend Nick Myers and his family, and exploring new ways to keep our community strong.

We are **rejoicing** in the arrival of the Reverend Nick Myers and his family. We are preparing for a grand **reunion** as we plan for our time together in worship, while at the same time making our worship space even more accessible by enhancing our online presence. We are guided by Scripture, tradition, and reason as we look towards **renewal**, finding new life together in loving our neighbors, both near and far.

In pursuing these goals, let us continue to sustain the Parish of the Epiphany's five pillars of ministry as described in the pages that follow: Worship & Music; Faith Formation; Mission & Outreach; Pastoral Care; and Parish Life & Evangelism.

Your stewardship and participation in our 2021 Commitment Campaign, *Rejoicing, Reunion, and Renewal*, is a crucial component of this effort. After careful consideration, the Vestry and finance committee have set a goal of \$875,000 for 2021. Equal to last year's goal, this sum will provide sufficient resources to meet the needs of all five of our ministry pillars in the coming year.

During this stewardship season we are building a sure foundation for our ministries and our new rector and with it a renewed commitment, so it is more important than ever for each of us to do our part. As one

of the leading parishes in the diocese, let us challenge ourselves to meet this year of new opportunities by increasing our giving and strengthening our commitment to the future of this parish.

As a parish, it has been amazing to witness how we have pivoted into a new model; but given the inevitable turnover of parishioners and change in individuals' circumstances, it is incumbent on those of us who can, to do more than we did last year. As of this writing, 100% of the members of the Vestry, stewardship committee, and search committee have committed to making their pledges by 25 October 2020. Please prayerfully consider making your pledge on behalf of the continued work and growth of the Parish of the Epiphany by 22 November 2020. While the enclosed materials include a paper pledge form, we encourage you to make your pledge online at 3crowns.org. (See "About Us"> "Giving">"online Giving" or "Pledge" in the upper right-hand corner of the home page).

We welcome your feedback and the opportunity to discuss any part of this effort. During this year of *Rejoicing, Reunion, and Renewal* our beloved parish needs your support as much as ever.

Let us rejoice in the hope of our future,

F. Warren McFarlan	David McSweeney	Solomon Owayda	Suzanne Owayda
<i>Co-Chair,</i>	<i>Warden</i>	<i>Co-Chair,</i>	<i>Warden</i>
<i>Stewardship</i>		<i>Stewardship</i>	
<i>Committee</i>		<i>Committee</i>	



REJOICING REUNION RENEWAL

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

—Psalm 23:6



Let us embrace *Rejoicing, Reunion, and Renewal*, the theme for everything we will do together this year. We rejoice in calling the Reverend Nick Myers as the 11th rector of the Parish of the Epiphany. We look forward to a joyous reunion, when we can gather again in our beautiful worship space, and towards renewal in finding new life together in loving our neighbors. Living through this time of the pandemic we are more aware than ever of how fortunate we are, and in our ability to give back to God from our abundance of blessings. Our gifts allow us to nurture and strengthen the following five pillars of our ministry that deepen our roots and enrich our faith.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music*

—Psalm 98:4

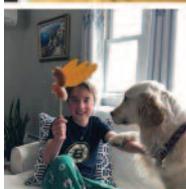


Your gifts of money and time allow the Parish of the Epiphany to rejoice in its rich tradition of worshipping God in the beauty of holiness. Worshipping through the pandemic has taught us that there are many ways to honor God. We plan to continue live streaming our services so we can be truly accessible to all. This will take additional video recording equipment that will not obstruct aisles and worship. Updates to the church ventilation system may be necessary to make our worship space safer for years to come. In addition to blessing our Sunday mornings of the Holy Eucharist, our renowned music program can continue to serve at the heart of our Advent and Christmas celebrations, Holy Week, and five Evensongs. Your support will enable us to welcome guest musicians for Christmas and Easter, invite guest preachers from across the Episcopal diocese, and keep our commitment to blending tradition with progressive expressions in language and theology.

FAITH FORMATION

*Apply your heart to instruction and
your ear to words of knowledge.*

—Proverbs 23:12



Our children, youth, and adult formation programs are on a strong foundation. We have developed and grown an engaging and inspiring program for youth and families. This year the pandemic required us to think creatively on how to continue supporting families and adult education programming. We quickly pivoted to provide engaging educational materials like the Faith at Home Sunday school boxes for parents to share with their children. We also invited a variety of educational speakers to present during adult education sessions on Zoom after church on Sundays. With your support, we can continue to strengthen these programs, broaden our reach, and build a robust program for all parishioners. Your gifts allow us to disciple one another, grow our faith, welcome guest speakers, and connect through intergenerational fellowship.

MISSION & OUTREACH

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

—Galatians 5:14



(above) Parishioners at the San Lucas Food Pantry, Chelsea

(right) Supporting Father Edgar and the Bella Isla Express Cafe, Chelsea



Mission & Outreach is committed to serving the myriad needs of the poor and marginalized at home and abroad. For years we have regularly come together to be God’s hands and feet in the world. Our efforts include activism against immigration injustice, feeding and supporting our most vulnerable neighbors living in communities near and far. This year, in response to urgent needs that arose from the pandemic, we helped feed and support hundreds of families who attend St. Luke’s/San Lucas church in Chelsea and at St. Stephen’s Church in Boston’s South End. We continue to provide medical assistance in Haiti; and share our love and financial support with the children of El Hogar in Honduras. This year, with the intention of getting closer to God’s Kingdom here on earth, the Epiphany Sustainability and Creation Care committee was formed to help us learn from others who are driving the fight against climate change and to chart our own path. Your support will help us continue our work on all these important missions.

PASTORAL CARE

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

—James 5:12–14



Our community is broad, including everyone from our elderly parishioners residing at home and in assisted living or nursing facilities, to young couples just beginning their families, and to single people to whom we are family. We support each other in times of need, from those mourning lost jobs or loved ones, to individuals struggling with illness, a divorce, or numerous other challenges. Epiphany's Stephen Ministry, a program in which trained lay people reach out to those in pastoral need, supports parishioners in need on a regular basis. Your stewardship dollars will support this ministry and other programs that help us shepherd each other during times of gladness, and times of sadness.

PARISH LIFE & EVANGELISM

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

—Matthew 18:20



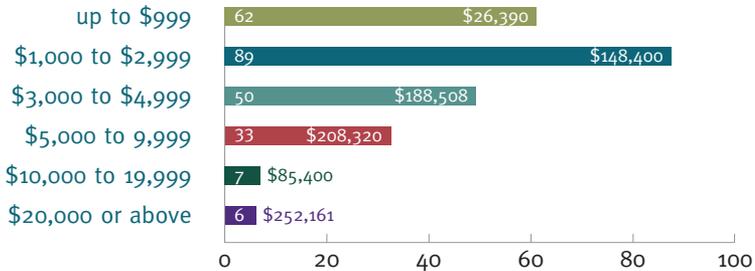
As we look toward 2021, when we will gather again in person, we also reflect on all the times we have shared over the years. From worshipping alongside each other to participating in formation classes; from honoring Miriam Gelfer’s retirement to looking forward to celebrating our new rector, we are deeply grateful for these moments in our lives. Whether we are designing a virtual celebration, or organizing receptions and reunions, we are already planning for when we can be together again. We need to care for all our gathering places to meet the needs of our community; however, in the words of our rector-elect, *“the church exists primarily for the life of those who are not yet part of it”* so we look forward to finding new ways to strengthen our external communications to welcome newcomers into these spaces.

SHARING FROM OUR ABUNDANCE

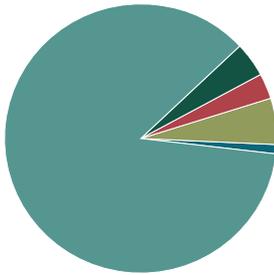
The bar chart illustrates our distribution of pledges for 2020. The pie charts show the Parish of the Epiphany's 2020 budgeted income and expenses.

Distribution of 2020 Annual Pledges — Households Represented

(247 pledges, \$909,000 — Average pledge \$3,681)



2020 Sources of Support for Ministries

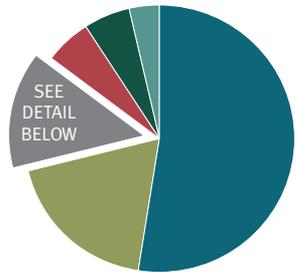


Budgeted Income \$1,080,500

Pledge Income*	\$932,000	86.3%
Investment Income	\$45,630	4.2%
Plate & Special Offerings	\$31,240	2.9%
Rentals and Events	\$60,900	5.6%
Special Donations	\$11,000	1.0%

Budgeted Expense \$1,080,077

Salary & Benefits	\$569,089	52.7%
Property	\$201,193	18.6%
Parish Life & Evangelism**	\$150,925	14.0%
Mission & Outreach	\$60,500	5.6%
Worship & Music	\$60,150	5.6%
Faith Formation	\$38,220	3.5%

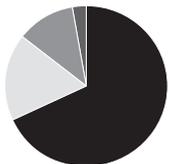


* This budgeted amount includes pledge receipts as well as other pledge-related revenues.

** \$70,497 in administrative expenses, including those for the rector search, have been allocated to these expense categories.

Budget for Parish Life & Evangelism

Diocesan Support	\$103,125	68.3%
Welcoming	\$26,250	17.4%
Pastoral Care	\$17,450	11.6%
Stewardship	\$4,100	2.7%



LOVE SHARED & LOVE RETURNED

Frequently Asked Questions about Financially Supporting the Parish of the Epiphany

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is an expression of gratitude and thankfulness for the blessings of life that come from God. It is love shared and love returned. A life lived in gratitude is a life lived in love.

Why does the Parish of the Epiphany call Stewardship a spiritual practice?

Any spiritual practice is based on faith — faith that the act repeated regularly will increase our awareness of the presence of God and will gradually remove from our lives the walls we erect that block God's grace. Spiritual practices include worship, prayer, silence and meditation, contemplation, reading scripture, and giving. Giving (financial stewardship is our focus here) has numerous spiritual benefits. What follows are just three:

- First, stewardship reduces our attachment to things material. We learn that giving away something that we “have” does not diminish us at all. Our needs continue to be met by God.
- Second, regular giving chips away at the concept of “mine” and “yours” and helps us better experience the truth that we are indeed one in spirit.
- Finally, in some mysterious way, our willingness to give determines our willingness to receive. No doubt, many of us know individuals who, in their reluctance to give, are also reluctant to receive. Being willing to give makes us open to receiving the many good gifts that God freely gives to us every moment of every day.

Is my stewardship defined only by the money I give to the Church?

Absolutely not. Time and service given to others is a critical component of stewardship. Our church can not function without these gifts of time and service.

Why is my pledge important?

Pledging to a spiritual practice increases the likelihood that we will follow through. God is more concerned with our faithful commitment to the practice of giving than with how much we give. Our Vestry does its best to operate the church on a sound financial basis. Having a good handle on our expected annual income enhances the Vestry's ability to plan responsibly. The stewardship campaign is held every fall because that is when the Vestry establishes next year's operating budget.

What percentage of the church's annual budget is supported by pledges?

About ninety percent. The remainder is supported by cash offerings, other donations, income from building rentals, and income from our small endowment.

What happens if I make a pledge and find I cannot fulfill it?

Your pledge is a spiritual commitment and helps with our financial planning. However, it is not a contract. If you are unable to fulfill your pledge or need to change the amount, simply contact our financial administrator Suzy Westcott at swestcott@3crowns.org. Please be assured that all information related to your pledge and your giving is held in the strictest confidence.

continued

Why is the Parish of the Epiphany trying to increase electronic giving?

Electronic giving helps to even out our cash flow and makes financial management easier for our treasurer.

Do I have to fulfill my pledge immediately? Can I pay in installments?

Once you've made your pledge, you can fulfill it in as many payments as you wish throughout the year. We can provide envelopes that match the schedule you wish to follow. If for tax or other reasons you wish to pay all or a portion of your 2021 pledge before 31 December 2020, simply enclose with your payment a note explaining your intent. If you wish to use stocks or appreciated securities to fulfill your pledge, please contact our financial administrator Suzy Westcott at swestcott@3crowns.org.

How much should I give? Am I expected to tithe?

If you asked ten different members of the church, you would likely get ten different answers. We encourage you to give a gift that is meaningful to you and to commit to an increase in the percentage of your household income each year. If we can all give a gift that is meaningful to us, we will be able to reach our goals.

THE BLESSING OF THE ANNUAL COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN

On 22 November 2020, we will ask for God's blessing on our commitments. We are confident that with your participation, we will achieve our 2021 goal of pledges totaling \$875,000. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can help ensure that the Parish of the Epiphany's life-giving ministries continue to thrive and grow.

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation, Hymn #518



THE PARISH OF THE EPIPHANY

A welcoming Episcopal community

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All scripture references are taken from the New Revised Standard Version.

Photography provided by screen shots and other parishioners.

Design services by Susan Kochinkas/Flocksholm Design

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Print by Litho-Craft