

2020

*Belonging, Believing, & Becoming
the Beloved Community*



*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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The Parish of the Epiphany

Building for Tomorrow

Dear Fellow Parishioner,

During the coming year of transition for our church community, we invite you into a season of “Belonging, Believing, and Becoming the Beloved Community.”

As we embark on a search for a new rector, let us enter into this uniquely liminal time and fully explore where God is leading us as a parish and as individual members of this beloved community.

Let us continue to extend our signature warmth and hospitality to friends and strangers alike. Let us continue to be guided by Scripture, tradition, and reason as we cultivate an environment that nurtures belief in an atmosphere of acceptance and love. And let us draw ever closer to becoming the beloved community our Lord has called us to become as we look beyond ourselves to the needs of others.

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 2020 Commitment Campaign, “Building for Tomorrow,” is a crucial component of this effort. After careful consideration, the vestry and finance committee have set a goal of \$875,000 for 2020. 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 time of transition, it is more important than ever for each of us to do our part. Vibrant programs and a financially solvent parish will help the search committee both identify and attract our next rector. Some of our sister parishes have seen a decrease in giving during times of transition. As one of the leading parishes in the diocese, let us challenge ourselves to meet this year of change and transformation by increasing our giving and strengthening our commitment to the future of this parish.

Given the inevitable turnover of parishioners and changes 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 2019. Please prayerfully consider making your pledge on behalf of the continued work and growth of the Parish of the Epiphany by 17 November 2019.



While the enclosed materials include a paper pledge form, we encourage you

to make your pledge online at www.3crowns.org. (See “About Us” > “Giving” > “Online Giving” or “Pledge” in the upper righthand corner of the home page).

We welcome your feedback and the opportunity to discuss any part of this effort. During this year of “Building for Tomorrow,” our beloved parish needs your support now more than ever.

With gratitude for each of you and sincere hope for our future,

F. Warren McFarlan

F. Warren McFarlan

Chair, Stewardship Committee

David McSweeney

David McSweeney

Warden

Suzanne B. Owayda

Suzanne Owayda

Warden

Belonging, Believing, & Becoming the Beloved Community

Building for Tomorrow



The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end. —Lamentations 3:22

Let us embrace “Belonging, Believing, and Becoming the Beloved Community” as a theme for everything we do together this year. Fulfilling these

goals depends on our ability to identify and build on our core beliefs and to give back to God from our abundance of blessings. As we nurture and strengthen the following five pillars of our ministry, we deepen our roots and enrich our faith.



Worship & Music

Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. —Psalm 84:4



Your gifts of money and time allow the Parish of the Epiphany to continue its rich tradition of worshipping God in the beauty of holiness. 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. It enables 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. We need your help. With your support we can increase our excellence and continue to recruit for a Director of Formation and



a youth minister or lay professional inspired to keep building a robust program for adults and families. Your gifts 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 the needs of the poor and marginalized at home and abroad. Our efforts include activism against immigration injustice; feeding the needy at San Lucas in Chelsea; serving children at the Blackstone School in Boston; providing medical assistance in Haiti; and sharing our love and

financial support with the children of El Hogar in Honduras.

Your stewardship allows us to continue to invest in and grow these vital efforts.



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

Our community is broad, including everyone from our elderly parishioners residing at home or in assisted living or nursing facilities to young couples just beginning their families. Our community includes those mourning lost jobs or spouses; individuals struggling with illness; and parishioners who are newly divorced. In 2019 we adopted fully the Stephen Ministry, a program in which trained lay people reach out to those in pastoral need. The program is led by the associate rector with four trained lay leaders. Your stewardship dollars help train new Stephen Ministers and support 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

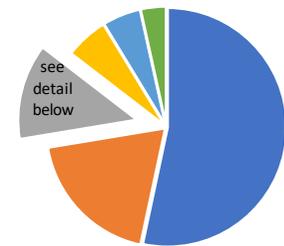
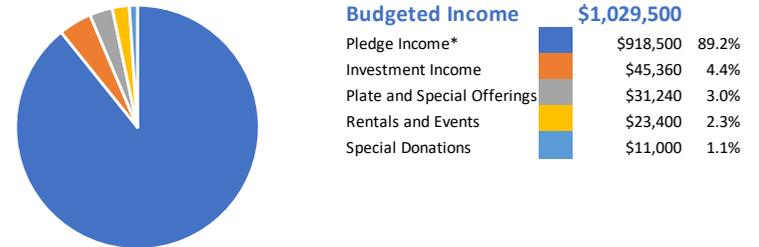
In addition to building community through worship, events, good food, and friendship, we need your help to maintain the church’s facilities and to respond to our rapid growth among families. We look forward to continuing to welcome newcomers and to strengthen our external communication during this time of transition. In addition to your financial support, we welcome gifts-in-kind to bolster our communication and maintain our facilities.

Sharing from Our Abundance

The pie charts at right show the Parish of the Epiphany’s 2019 budgeted income and expenses followed on the next page by two graphs illustrating our distribution of pledges in 2019.



2019 Sources of Support for Ministries



* This budgeted amount includes pledge receipts as well as other pledge-related revenues.
 ** \$59,500 in administrative expenses have been allocated to these expense categories.





Love Shared & Love Returned

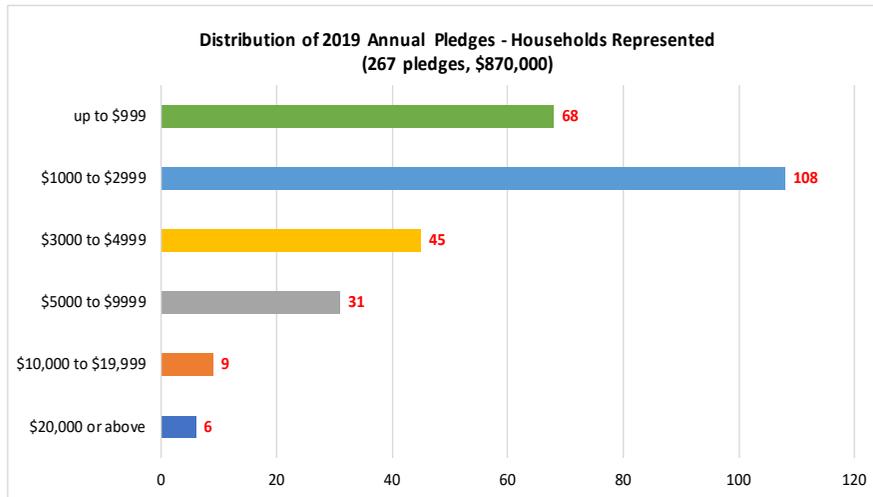
Frequently Asked Questions about Financially Supporting the Parish of the Epiphany



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:



\$20,000 or above	\$ 187,951	21.6%	6
\$10,000 to \$19,999	\$ 102,540	11.8%	9
\$5000 to \$9999	\$ 199,480	22.9%	31
\$3000 to \$4999	\$ 170,345	19.5%	45
\$1000 to \$2999	\$ 181,513	20.8%	108
up to \$999	\$ 29,903	3.4%	68
	\$ 871,732	100.0%	267
average	\$ 3,265		

• 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’t 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 percentage of parish households fulfill their annual pledge each year? Ninety-eight percent.

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

Nothing. 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.

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 pro-



The Maundy Thursday footwashing rite depicted above and throughout this booklet was introduced by the early Christian church to imitate the humility and selfless love of Jesus.

vide pledge 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 2020 pledge before 31 December 2019, 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



At both services on **17 November 2019**, we will present our pledge commitments before the altar and ask for God's blessing. If you pledge in advance, we will provide cards at the service that say "I've pledged" so that 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. 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.

All Scripture references are taken from the New Revised Standard Version. Photography provided by Jon Hartt and other parishioners. Editorial & design services by Dawn Kotapish of Wordscapes, Inc. © The Parish of the Epiphany 2019. Printed by Litho-Craft.