

With grateful hearts and joyful hope, let us give for what can be.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2021

PARISH OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER

1415 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803



October 19, 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

This year has reminded us in so many ways of the strength and closeness of our parish community. Even in months of continued physical distancing, the Spirit has kept us together, connecting us in unexpected ways. We have heard much about churches being physically closed, but we were never “closed” – we continued to follow the Gospel call to live in love with our neighbors, finding ever new ways to seek and serve Christ in all people.

As we look to the year to come, we are more committed than ever to the ministry and love we share with our community, our neighbors and one another. Our ministry, our buildings, our clergy and staff are funded through the gifts of its members – your generous offerings given in grace and love. This year we are asking for every member to take part in our stewardship campaign by making a pledge. Included with this letter are materials for making your gift.

The Gospel is rich with examples of how our faith kindles our love for each other and our Christian responsibility to share our gifts and our love with the world. We invite you and your household to pray and learn, taking these next weeks to consider how your generous response to God’s call has been shaped by this community and the friends who gather with you. Thank you for being a part of Christ Church and for your faithful, faith-filled gift to our 2021 campaign.

In the spirit of generosity and love,

The 2021 Stewardship Committee

Claire Allen

Kari Black – Chair

Jennifer Hawks Bland

Allison Bodenmann

Jeff Bodenmann – Senior Warden

Matthew Mead – Rector



With grateful hearts and joyful hope, let us give for what can be.

September 15, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

The theme of this year's stewardship campaign is "Faith-Filled Generosity" which I think is appropriate given how unpredictable 2020 has been. This has been a year of disruptions, losses, and anxieties for all of us. We have all been physically distant from each other for longer than any of us expected or desired, but I believe we have remained deeply and spiritually connected at Christ Church.

2020 has been an extended "Season of the Word" in which the voices and faces of our readers, singers, and clergy have become the focus each Sunday and entered into our homes in a way none of us ever imagined only a few months ago. In particular, the weekly prayer list has grown and parishioners have responded by taking more time to pray for each other's needs. You have been constantly in my prayers, and I know that Christ Church has been in yours. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you also for doing your part in your homes, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, families, and here in our church.

The countless ways that you have used your resources for the mission of the Church and to help each other is inspiring. Your 2020 pledges and donations have allowed us to continue worship, outreach, and pastoral care in this trying time. I think we are in a very good place, all things considered, as we plan our work together for 2021. This coming year, we will explore how our generosity is inspired by our faith and how we are formed and led into relationship with each other as we share our gifts with the world. I believe this is what we mean by "Faith-Filled Generosity."

How will you discover and use the gifts you have been given to help our church this year? How will you hear the Gospel call to seek and serve Christ in all people, and respond with generosity? As I look at each family, each individual in our community, I realize that we are the stewards of God's manifold grace because we give to the world from what we have received.

This year, our stewardship committee will be sending you a packet with your pledge card and an appeal. I invite you to receive this with grace and prayer as you consider how you will share with God and the Church from what you have received.

In Christ and with fondest affection,
Fr. Matt

STEWARDSHIP GOALS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Goal 1: To consider our response to these extraordinary times. We give thanks for having found meaningful ways to remain connected as a parish family during these difficult times. We have also been blessed by the opportunity to work together to identify solutions to weather the parish financial challenges of 2020. As we prepare for an uncertain year ahead, there are some things that we do know: our rental income is down, we have fewer opportunities for new visitors to Christ Church (which typically helps with plate collections), our fundraising opportunities are currently limited and sadly, 2020 has seriously impacted some of our parishioners' livelihoods. If you are able to make a 2021 pledge in a way that helps to overcome some of these current challenges, we respectfully ask that you consider doing so.

Goal 2: Every parishioner understands what a Pledge is. Most of our parishioners make a financial pledge to support Christ Church each year – our budget relies on such pledges and the generosity of our parishioners. A pledge is an expression of faith and a personal response to God's generosity. This pledge represents each person's specific Christian commitment to "work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God" (BCP, p. 856). A pledge is a statement of intent, not a legal obligation. It can be changed at any time.

Goal 3: Every family and/or parishioner pledge for 2021. Regardless of the size of your annual pledge, we hope that you will participate in this year's stewardship campaign and complete the pledge card included in this mailing. We ask that you return your pledge card on or before Dedication Sunday which is November 22, 2020. There are other ways to pledge beyond filling out the pledge card...you can call the parish office (914-738-5515) with your annual pledge amount or you can electronically pledge through the Christ Church website (www.christchurchpelham.org). Please click on the "Give/Donate (Parish Giving)" link in order to get started (more on this below).

STEWARDSHIP GOALS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Goal 4: Total pledge income should cover the parish’s operating expenses. Our goal is to increase the percentage of operating expenses covered by pledges because our current level of giving still does not fully support our programs, clergy, staff, and physical plant. Each year we still rely on a draw from the parish endowment. By vestry resolution, the endowment draw is capped at 5% (based on a three-year rolling average). Our goal is to reduce that percentage to ensure future generations benefit from the endowment, as current and past generations have. Thankfully, during the difficulties of 2020 we have been able to maintain all of our staffing including the paid professional choir members. Our goal is for pledging to cover more of our monthly expenses while also maintaining all of our programs and infrastructure.

Goal 5: Every parishioner/family considers giving proportionally and increasing his or her Pledge. If you have not raised your pledge in many years and are able to do so, please consider this... An average pledge increase of 3-5% helps the parish to cover inflationary increases and costs. Proportional giving means pledging more, as God gives us more, and is most easily understood as giving a certain percentage of income. The Episcopal Church officially affirms the tithe - a tenth of a person's income, usually mandated for sacred purposes - as the standard of giving for Episcopalians. Please see the proportional giving chart below for more information.

Proportional Giving				
Annual Income	Monthly Pledge Amount			
	2%	5%	10%	15%
\$25,000	\$42	\$104	\$208	\$313
\$50,000	\$83	\$208	\$417	\$625
\$75,000	\$125	\$313	\$625	\$938
\$100,000	\$167	\$417	\$833	\$1,250
\$150,000	\$250	\$625	\$1,250	\$1,875
\$200,000	\$333	\$833	\$1,667	\$2,500
\$250,000	\$417	\$1,042	\$2,083	\$3,125
\$300,000	\$500	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$3,750
\$400,000	\$667	\$1,667	\$3,333	\$5,000

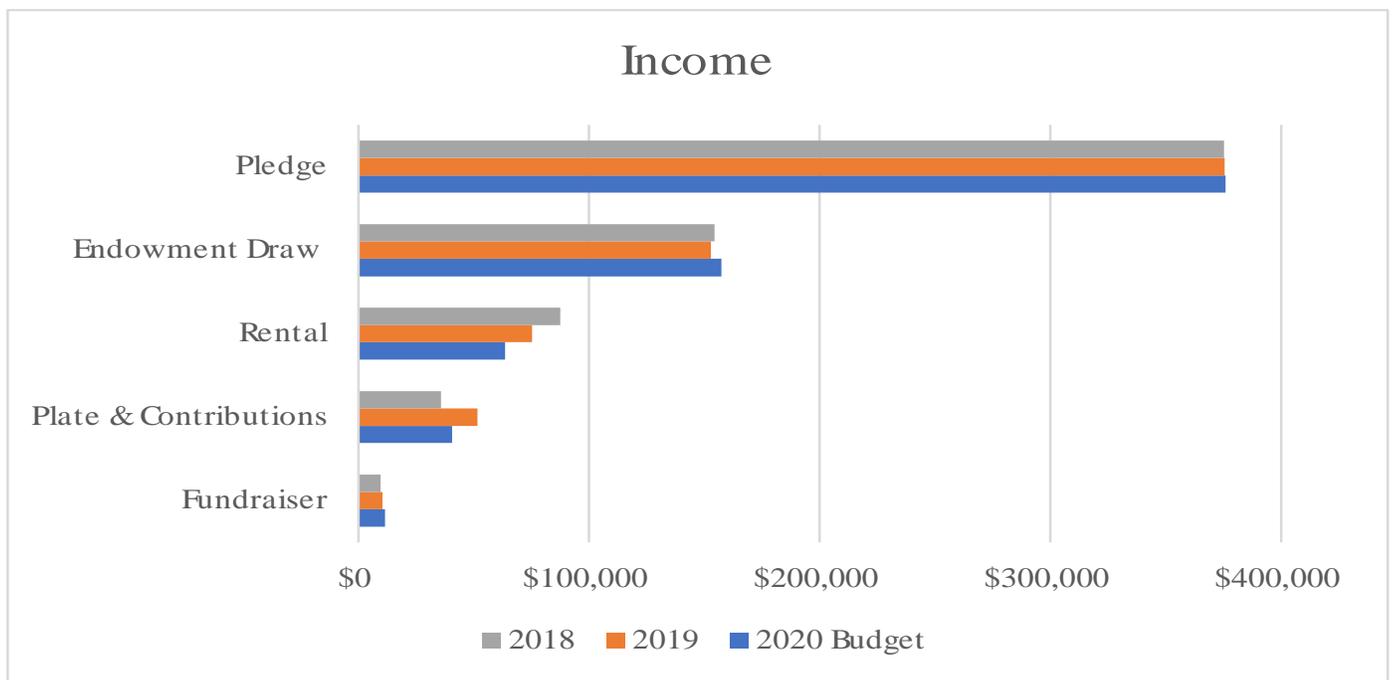
REVENUE SOURCES

Pledges: Pledging is far and away our primary and most reliable source of income.

Plate & Contributions: Most visitors and some parishioners place non-pledged donations into the offertory plate or make occasional contributions. This is our smallest revenue source, and it is far less reliable than pledges.

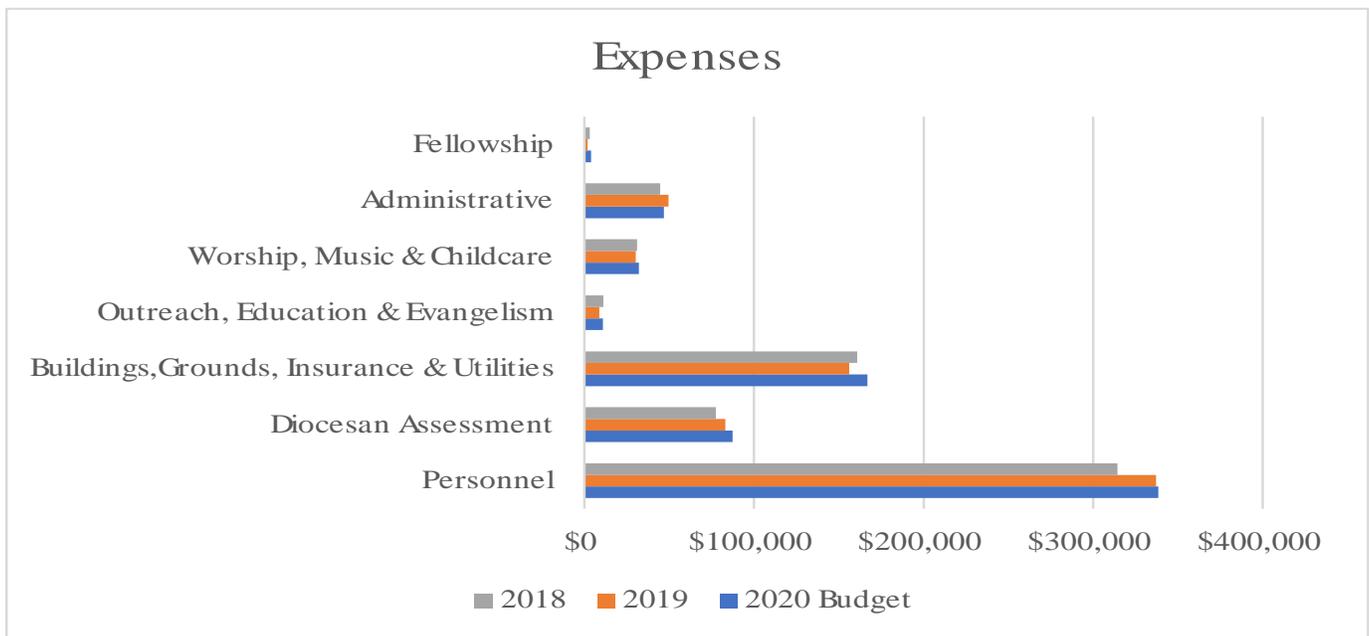
Rental: During Covid especially, and even prior to the pandemic, we have been experiencing a significant reduction of income from rental of church building space. Historically this line item has gone up and down over the past few years we have struggled to maintain it at a functional level. Renters come and go and don't have any real investment in our parish; this means the income they provide is not nearly as reliable as a parishioner pledge.

Endowment: Christ Church has been blessed by the generosity of parishioners who have contributed beyond their pledges to help us build an endowment. The vestry tries to minimize the amount we draw from the endowment to cover operating expenses. An annual 5% of the endowment balance is in excess of what is required to meet the long-term goal of maintaining the real value of the endowment in perpetuity to support future generations of our church. An increase in pledge income enables us to take a more sustainable draw on the endowment.

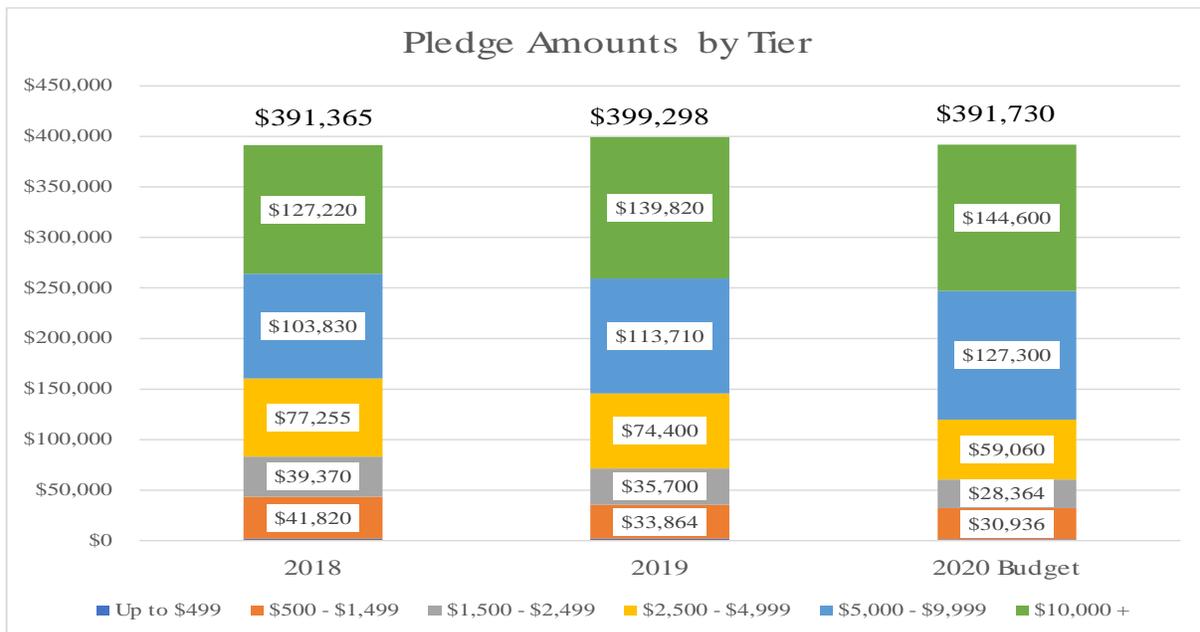
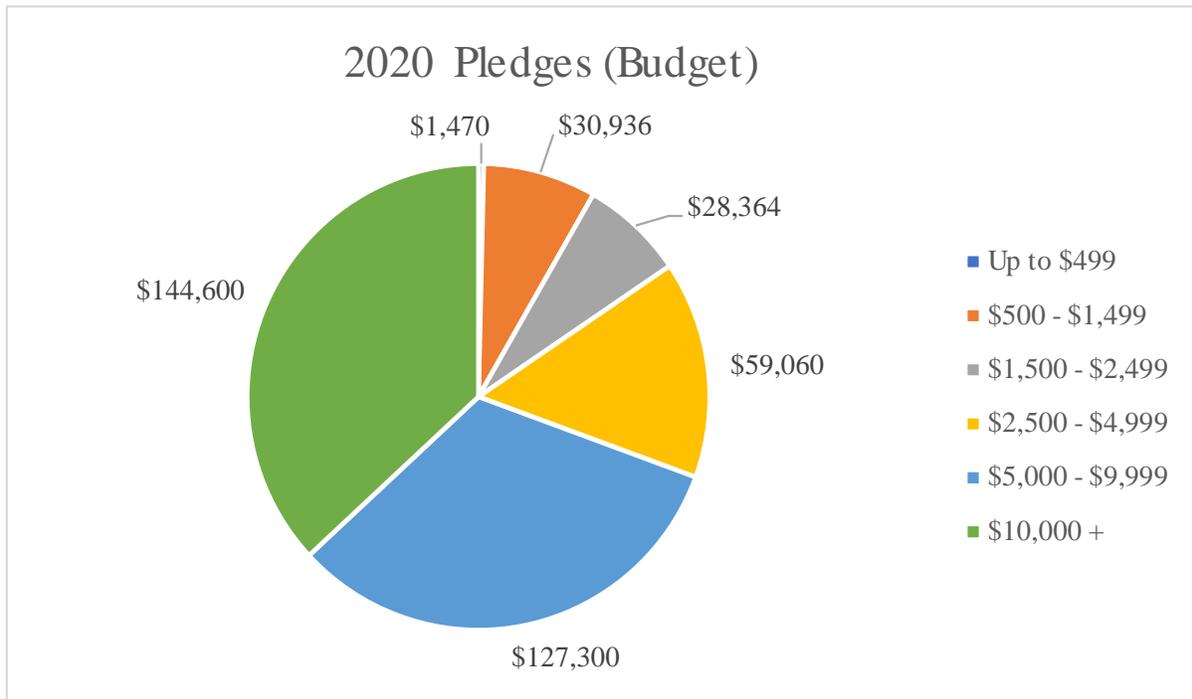


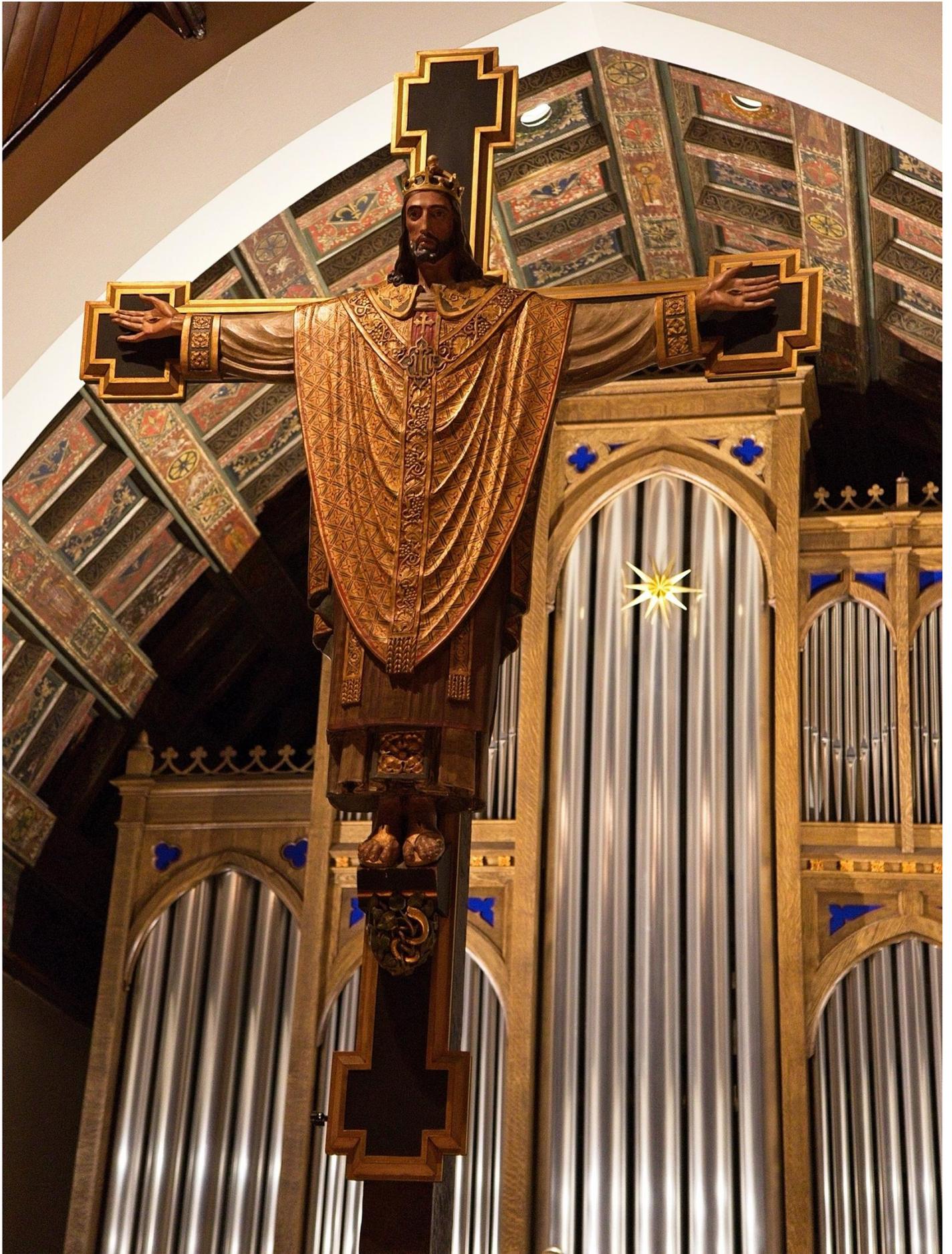
INCOME AND EXPENSES

Income and Expenses	2018	2019	2020
	Actual	Actual	Budget
Income			
Pledge* <i>(Adjusted to reflect planned receipts)</i>	375,303	375,445	375,803
Plate & Contributions	35,743	51,682	40,500
Fundraiser	9,722	10,418	11,601
Rental	87,537	75,342	63,631
Endowment Draw	154,373	152,713	157,406
Total Income	662,678	665,600	648,941
Expenses			
Personnel	314,278	337,234	338,519
Diocesan Assessment	77,370	83,184	87,404
Buildings, Grounds, Insurance & Utilities	160,822	156,078	166,873
Outreach, Education & Evangelism	11,045	8,924	10,800
Worship, Music & Childcare	31,085	30,401	32,125
Administrative	44,654	49,512	46,843
Fellowship	3,195	1,891	3,850
Total Expenses	642,449	667,224	686,414



Pledge Information	2018 Pledges	2019 Pledges	2020 Pledges
Up to \$499	12	11	9
\$500 - \$1,499	47	44	38
\$1,500 - \$2,499	21	19	16
\$2,500 - \$4,999	22	21	18
\$5,000 - \$9,999	16	19	20
\$10,000 +	10	11	11
Total Pledges	128	125	112





FAQs

IS PLEDGING ALL ABOUT BALANCING THE BUDGET?

It is true that our church doors remain open due to the generosity of our current parishioners, as well as those parishioners who came before us.

Pledging is about financial support, but it is not solely a financial gesture. Giving to the church is a commitment to provide one's time, talent and treasure as an expression of faith and a personal response to God's generosity. On a personal level, pledging helps transform our giving in to a spiritual practice; it becomes something we do regularly, just like worship and prayer. By transforming our giving in to a commitment, we reinforce for ourselves that God, our worship life, and our parish community are priorities in our lives.

WHY IS A PLEDGE BETTER THAN A WEEKLY DONATION IN THE PLATE?

The vestry can't build a budget based on plate offerings. Pledging is the simple process whereby members of the parish make a financial commitment towards the support of Christ Church for the coming year. Your pledge is a commitment to give consistently, which allows us to plan carefully and make responsible decisions about the operating budget and funding critical ministries.

You are not locked in. If circumstances change, you can adjust your pledge up or down any time during the year. Some people make one annual pledge payment. Others pay weekly, or anywhere in between. We issue statements for tax purposes and proper record keeping. The amount you pledge is kept confidential.

HOW DO I MAKE AN ANNUAL PLEDGE?

Please prayerfully consider how much you would like to pledge for 2021. There are a number of ways to pledge at Christ Church.

Fill out the enclosed pledge card...Return it either by mail or in person to the church office. We will begin collecting pledge cards immediately and will celebrate the close of the campaign on Christ the King Sunday, November 22. On November 22, there will be an opportunity to return your pledge card in person...details to follow.

Electronically/On-line...If you would like to take advantage of our electronic pledge system, please see the instructions below.

Call the Parish Office...If you prefer to speak with someone in person about your pledge, please call the parish office.

Stock Donations...If you would like to consider the donation of stocks to the church as a way to fulfill your pledge, this can be arranged. A number of your fellow parishioners have used this option in the past. Stocks can be used to fulfill your annual pledge or any part of it. If you need assistance with this, our treasurer, bookkeeper, parish office, or stewardship chair can be of assistance.

FAQs

HOW DO I MAKE AN ELECTRONIC PLEDGE AND WHY?

You can access our “Give/Donate (Parish Giving)” link, through our website at: www.christchurchpelham.org. Signing up online through this link is a safe, secure and easy way to make a pledge payment or donation to Christ Church. The convenience includes the ability to choose the date and frequency, options to use a credit card or bank transfer, as well as the benefit of not having to remember envelopes each week!

If you would like a Stewardship Committee member to guide you through the sign-up process, please contact Kari Black at kblackn@aol.com or the Rector. We will be happy to help you navigate the electronic payment system. For anyone not interested in the electronic payment program, traditional giving envelopes will be available upon request (please indicate this preference by “checking the box” on the pledge card or by calling the parish office).

HOW IS THE BUDGET BEING BUILT DURING THIS TIME OF COVID?

The vestry, finance committee and stewardship committee continue to meet regularly during this uncertain time (there are also other committees that are meeting virtually....if you'd like to be involved, please reach out to a staff member, clergy person, or a vestry member). In order to build the 2021 budget, the first half of 2021 is being treated as “frozen”. This means that all of our fixed expenses will stay flat. January through the end of May, there will not be any fellowship events planned, in-person fund raisers will not be possible, and renters other than Montessori will not be using their usual spaces. During this challenging time, clergy, staff, and vestry will do their best to keep all expenses to a bare minimum, while still being available for all pastoral needs, producing high-quality YouTube worship services, as well as welcoming congregants to Sunday morning worship services as able. Special feast day services will be arranged, the Men's Group will be making sandwiches for the Trinity St. Paul “brown-bag lunch program”, and Morning Prayer will continue to be offered on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 via Zoom.

IS IT AWKWARD TO TALK ABOUT MONEY IN CHURCH?

Interestingly, 40% of Jesus' parables are about money or possessions. There can be a lot of emotional weight attached to money...hopes & dreams, security, fear, success & failure, joy & happiness to name just a few examples. When we talk about money in church and with each other, we are not just limiting our conversations to finance and pledges, we are also talking about our church family, love, anxiety, health and the fullness of life in many different ways. Please always know that you can speak about any of these items with the priests at Christ Church and if you ever have questions about pledging or church financials, we are happy to put you in touch with our treasurer, accountant, wardens, vestry, or stewardship committee members.

CHRIST CHURCH

Episcopal/Anglican

Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*
The Reverend Canon Susan C. Harriss, *Priest Associate*
The Reverend Deacon Katie Lawrence
Mr. Jeffrey Hoffman, *Organist and Choirmaster*
Ms. Marie Main, *Parish Administrator*
Mr. Walter Roberts, *Verger and Sexton*
Mr. Ed Blue, *Sexton*

Wardens & Vestry

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*
Mr. Jeff Bodenmann, *Senior Warden*
Ms. Carol Ipsen, *Junior Warden*
Ms. Anne Calder, *Treasurer*
Ms. Jean Gruener, *Clerk*

Ms. Claire Allen
Mr. Curtis Chase
Mr. Andy DesRault

Mr. John Fox
Ms. Etta Gumbs
Ms. Amy Heese

Mr. Gavin Leckie
Ms. Angela Lore-Baron
Ms. Barbara Zambelli

† A Parish of the Diocese of New York †

Christ Church

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer
1415 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, New York 10803
914.738.5515
914.712.0526, *fax*
www.christchurchpelham.org

*Christ Church Pelham is a Christian community in the Episcopal tradition.
As members of the Body of Christ, we are dedicated to spiritual growth
and committed to serving God through worship and
service to our community and the world.*

