



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
HOLY COMMUNION

"Making a needed difference."

Dear People of Holy Communion,

This has been a different sort of year for our church. Your Vestry, Stewardship Committee, and I are currently meeting one to one with all our members. If you haven't yet heard from one of us, please reach out to me by email at mangell@holycommunion.net or by phone at 314-721-7401 extension 303. We want to speak with everyone. We want to hear how you are doing.

We have been asking everyone three questions:

- **What has Holy Communion meant to you over the past few months?**
- **What are your hopes for Holy Communion in the months ahead?**
- **Can you help us make a needed difference?**

I have been surprised by the responses to the first question. It is hard to lead worship on video. It is hard to preach to a camera. It is hard not to be able to gather. But again and again I have heard, "the worship matters to me. The preaching matters to me." I have also heard about phone calls members have made to one another, cards and notes. We have found ways to pray. We have found ways to be together. We remain a welcoming and diverse community seeking to follow Jesus. Through a pandemic, through an uprising for racial equity, through changes to our team, changes to the way we gather and worship, our core commitments remain the same. We will seek and serve Christ together, loving our neighbor and working for justice and peace.

The answers to the second question have also given me reason to hope. I wish I could name a date when we could safely worship together, in our building with the choir, hugs at the peace, and kids running around the ankles of older adults. I can't guess that date. Our regathering committee and vestry are encouraging us to err on the side of safety. As I listen, I hear members agreeing that patience and creativity will see us through. I hear folks hoping that more folks will find us through our online worship, more folks will know that there is a place they can worship God and be fully themselves.

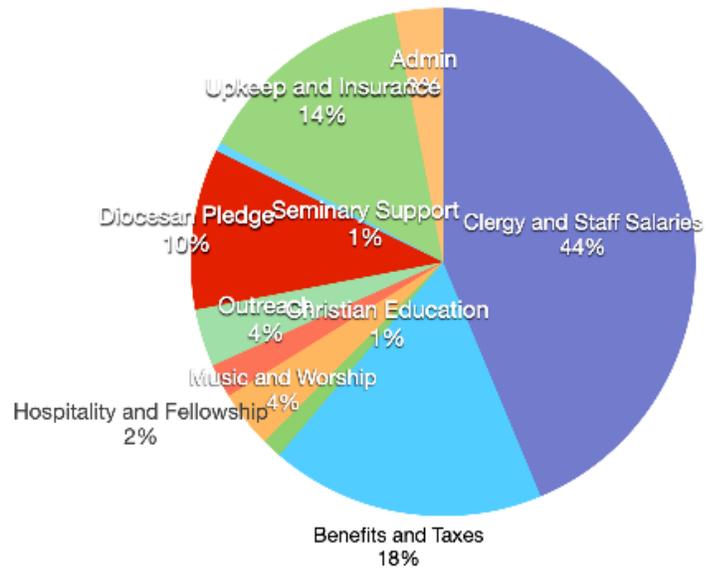
Holy Communion is an uncommon kind of church. We are making a needed difference. To continue our work, we need your support. We know this year not everyone is going to be able to give what they would like. We also know that some folks are able to help make up the difference by increasing their pledge. The rest of this letter gives you a window into our financial picture, and the effect Covid-19 may have on our finances. **We hope you will return a pledge card (or pledge online at holycommunion.net/pledge) by October 11. We will bless pledges online and in our drive-in service.** Please reach out if you have questions.

With thanks,

The Rev. Mike Angell

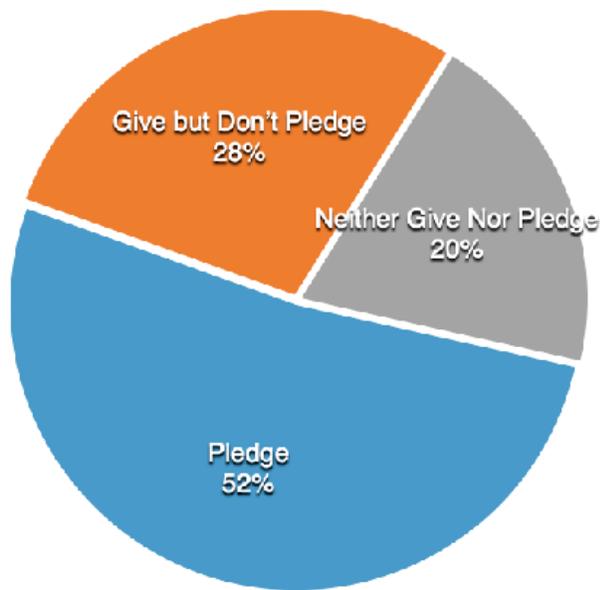
VISUAL BUDGET: WHAT ARE THE CHURCH'S PROGRAM EXPENSES?

Category	Amount
Clergy and Staff Salaries	\$308,903.00
Benefits and Taxes	\$124,436.00
Christian Education	\$8,850.00
Music and Worship	\$25,800.00
Hospitality and Fellowship	\$15,250.00
Outreach	\$26,000.00
Diocesan Pledge	\$72,349.00
Seminary Support	\$4,000.00
Upkeep and Insurance	\$99,824.00
Admin	\$21,900.00
Total	\$707,312.00

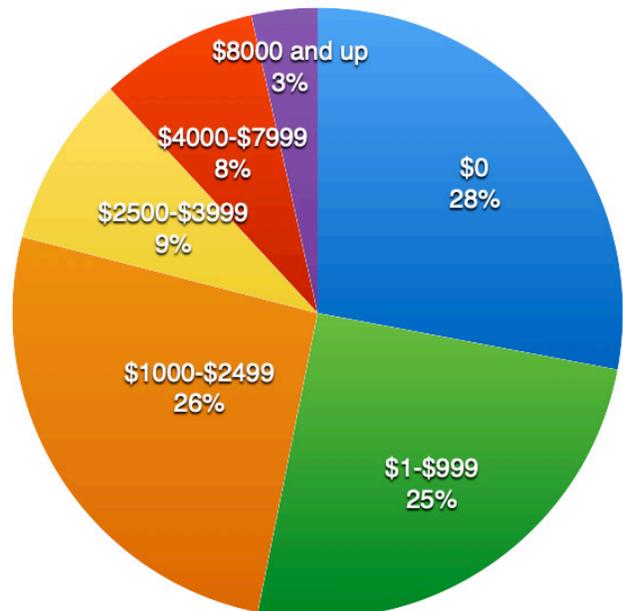


This chart shows a relatively healthy budget for the size of our church. The growth in the expense of benefits and taxes remains beyond the control of the vestry. The budget for this year represented about a \$55,000 deficit to enable our planned growth.

VISUAL BUDGET: WHAT DOES GIVING LOOK LIKE?



2020 saw a reduction in the number of pledges. This was the result of several moves from the area, and a higher than usual percentage of givers who did not turn in a pledge. We also saw an increase in new givers in 2020. We encourage households to pledge, so that we have the ability to make better plans for our budget. We are also working to make it easier for new givers to become ongoing supporters of our ministry.



Every pledge counts. Almost a quarter of our members pledge between \$1 and \$999. In a less certain economic year, we would still like to see every member make a pledge. Even if we cannot all give as much as we would like. We hope members who are able to help make up the difference will increase their giving this year, as a way to care for their fellow church members who may not be able to give as much as they would like.

HOW HAS COVID IMPACTED OUR FINANCES?

When Covid-19 struck, the Vestry and Clergy acted quickly to apply for a US Government Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan/Grant, in case member giving evaporated. Through the middle of 2020, member giving has not seen near the downturn we feared in giving. The combination of the government funding and reduced expenses with our buildings closed means we may finish the year with revenue and expenses closely matching.

Additionally: We received over \$12,000 in gifts specifically to the emergency fund, which has allowed us to help keep folks housed, fed, and meeting basic needs. (These gifts and expenses are not part of the yearly program budget, but we need to celebrate this generosity.)

2020 FORECASTED INCOME



2021 FORECASTED INCOME

While 2020 has been a surprisingly stable time for our finances, 2021 looks less certain. We do not anticipate another windfall like the PPP funding. Covid-19's economic impacts will likely prevent some members from being able to give as much as they would like to. Financial Market turbulence may also cause our endowments to contribute less than they have in recent years.

We are pursuing additional grant money to help cover the projected deficit, but we do not anticipate that grants alone will be able to see us through with our current staffing. If you are able to help us cover the gap, we encourage you to reach out to our rector, treasurer, or Stewardship chairs.

Deficit \$65k

