



# OUR FUTURE. OUR FAITH. OUR TIME.

## 2023 will be a pivotal year for St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

As we navigate this period of transition, we hold steadfast to our faith and our trust in God. We envision a future marked by growth, vibrancy and expanded ministry to serve others. This is of course all made possible by your faithful generosity. As we call a new Rector we want to demonstrate that our community is one that lives into abundant generosity; a community willing to make extraordinary sacrifices in service to God. As you prayerfully consider your support for St. Bart's in 2023 we humbly ask that you keep these tenets in mind. Together we can build a solid future for St. Bart's and give our new Rector the resources needed to strengthen us as a community and disciples of Christ.

Ministries must be funded to carry out our mission and vision and to provide day-to-day contact with the wider community. Growth in both members and vitality continue to be very high priorities.

## Your generosity is crucial to sustaining our commitment to our community and our world.

As cheerful givers, we do not give to a budget. We give to God with hearts filled with thanksgiving and gratitude. God challenges us to surprise ourselves by abundant generosity.

By returning a portion of our monetary possessions to God,

**we allow God's love to flow more  
freely in our lives and fully live into  
our call to be disciples of Christ.**

Our tradition, flowing down through the teachings of Jesus, has given us an essential way to develop our response to gratitude by giving back a portion of what we have been given as a way of acknowledging and expressing gratitude for all we have received in this life. Prayerfully consider what your commitment of gratitude will be this year. Pledging to St. Bart's not only helps us to sustain our rich and varied community, it keeps us together, growing us as a community of faith.



# WAYS TO CONSIDER YOUR 2023 PLEDGE

## Maintain

At the very least, keep our present momentum going by maintaining your present pledge. Remember to add an inflationary or cost-of-living increase (approximately 8%) so that your dollars have the same purchasing power to offset expenses incurred by the parish to carry out our mission and ministry. It takes more financial resources each year to simply maintain.

## Proportional Giving

Proportional giving recognizes that giving back to God is a journey and that tithing is a level of giving to aspire to. It requires us to make a conscious effort to determine an appropriate level of giving for today, and then to be open to allowing our giving to grow in the future. The Proportional Giving Chart below might be helpful. Consider increasing your pledge by one percent of your income each year. This practice of giving has the power to transform lives and shape the souls of many.

## Incremental Increase

Whatever you gave last year, consider increasing it by 10%. For example, if you gave \$1,000 in 2022, then give \$1,100 for 2023. If everyone increased their pledge by 10% for 2023, then not only would our resources increase, but we would be able to begin shifting the ways we use our endowed and reserve funds to support ministry development.



Annual Income	Weekly Income	Beyond the Tithe Weekly Amount		Tithe Weekly Amount	Proportional Giving Weekly Amount								
		15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$20,000	\$385	\$58	\$46	\$38	\$35	\$31	\$27	\$23	\$19	\$15	\$12	\$8	\$4
\$25,000	\$481	\$72	\$58	\$48	\$43	\$38	\$34	\$29	\$24	\$19	\$14	\$10	\$5
\$30,000	\$577	\$87	\$69	\$58	\$52	\$46	\$40	\$35	\$29	\$23	\$17	\$12	\$6
\$40,000	\$769	\$115	\$92	\$77	\$69	\$62	\$54	\$46	\$38	\$31	\$23	\$15	\$8
\$50,000	\$962	\$144	\$115	\$96	\$87	\$77	\$67	\$58	\$48	\$38	\$29	\$19	\$10
\$60,000	\$1,154	\$173	\$138	\$115	\$104	\$92	\$81	\$69	\$58	\$46	\$35	\$23	\$12
\$70,000	\$1,346	\$202	\$162	\$135	\$121	\$108	\$94	\$81	\$67	\$54	\$40	\$27	\$13
\$80,000	\$1,538	\$231	\$185	\$154	\$138	\$123	\$108	\$92	\$77	\$62	\$46	\$31	\$15
\$90,000	\$1,731	\$260	\$208	\$173	\$156	\$138	\$121	\$104	\$87	\$69	\$52	\$35	\$17
\$100,000	\$1,923	\$288	\$231	\$192	\$173	\$154	\$135	\$115	\$96	\$77	\$58	\$38	\$19
\$120,000	\$2,308	\$346	\$277	\$231	\$208	\$185	\$162	\$138	\$115	\$92	\$69	\$46	\$23
\$150,000	\$2,885	\$433	\$346	\$288	\$260	\$231	\$202	\$173	\$144	\$115	\$87	\$58	\$29

# NEEDS AND PRIORITIES FOR 2023

## Growth & Vibrancy

As we welcome a new Rector and focus on our impact as a community of faith, we must continue to invest in programming and initiatives that grow our parish. This includes expanded ministry for newcomers and positioning the parish's ability to reach diverse audiences. When we say "All are Welcome. No Exceptions!" we mean it. Your investment in this theology of welcoming all will ensure that St. Bart's remains a vibrant parish for years to come.



## Expanded Outreach

Thanks to your continued generosity, St. Bart's continues to be a community that values our outreach ministries and lifting those in need. With your support, we aspire to maintain and expand our current ministry partnerships so that we can fully live into our calling as Christians to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

## Forming Disciples of All Ages

From Children's and Youth Ministries to Adult Bible Studies to new ministries for Seniors, St. Bart's has many rich offerings that support Christian Formation. With our eyes towards growth, we must enhance these ministries to meet the needs of all of God's children in a changing world and changing church. Your support gives us the resources to be nimble and meet people wherever they may be on their spiritual journey.

## Joy-filled Worship

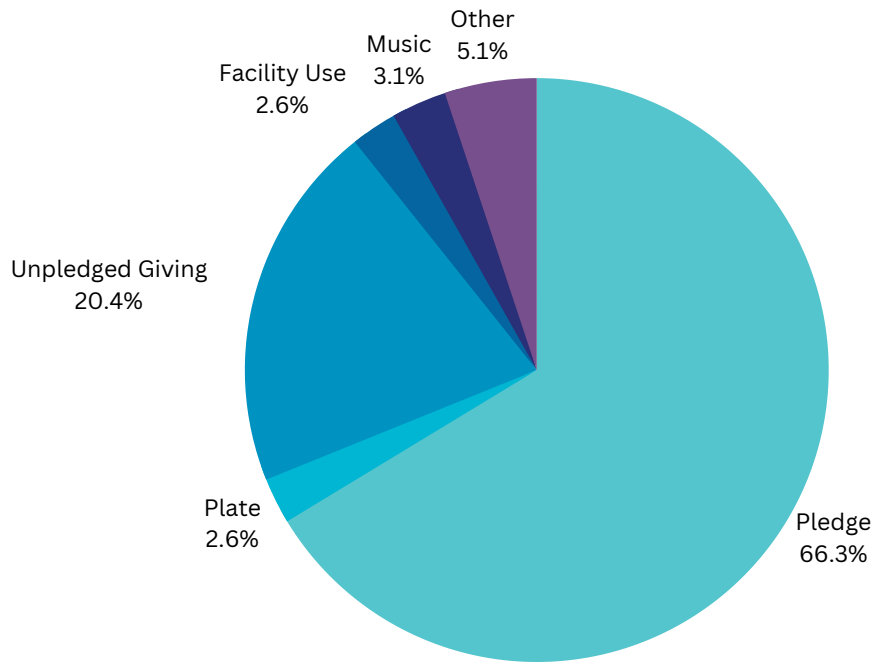
Building on the success of our music programs, your support will help us further lean into innovation and creativity. We aim to diversify our musical offerings—blending our Episcopal traditions with new works—ensuring that we spiritually nourish all with the power of music.

## Building & Equipping a Community Ready to Serve

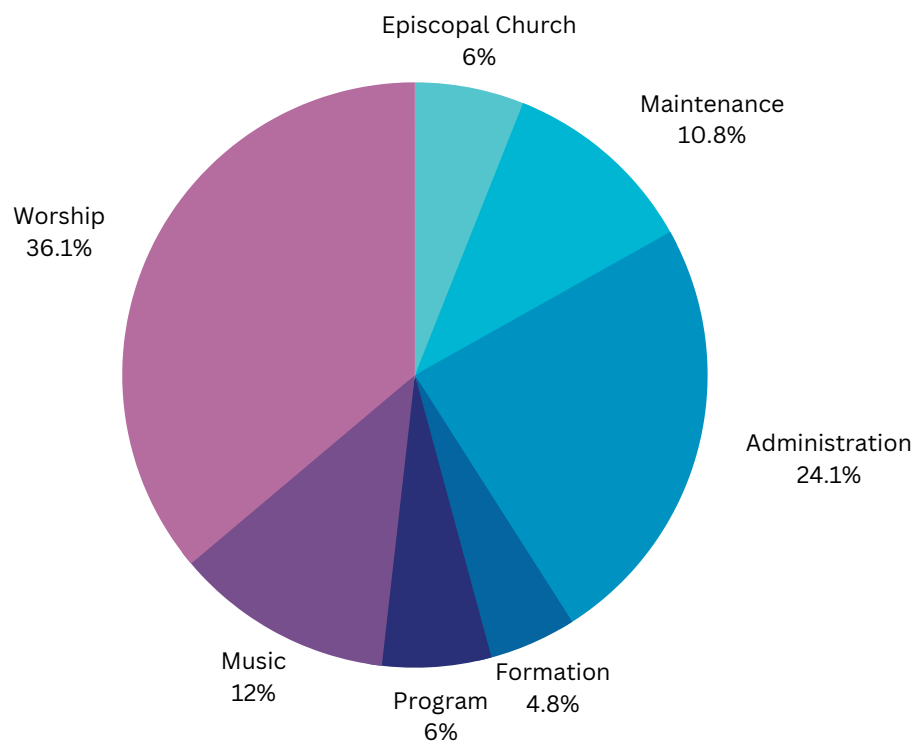
The people of St. Bart's are unquestionably our greatest resource. In the coming years we hope to invest in activities that enhance our common life together and equip each of our members with the resources that help them to serve our community and the world.

# PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## 2022 Income



## 2022 Expenses



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT IS A PLEDGE?

A pledge is simply an estimate of what you expect to give to the church to support its mission and ministry in the year to come. This enables us to plan our budget and make careful, purposeful decisions. On a personal level, pledging helps transform your giving into a spiritual practice, because it becomes something you do regularly like worship or prayer. By transforming our giving in a commitment, we reinforce for ourselves that God is a priority in our life.

## WHAT DOES THE OPERATING BUDGET SUPPORT?

The operating budget of the church supports our mission and ministry including pastoral care, worship and liturgy, administration and Christian formation.

## HOW MUCH SHOULD I PLEDGE? WHAT IS A TITHE?

The tithe is best understood in the context of giving from our 'first fruits,' which is to give our income—first in, first out—rather than from what's left over. One standard that Christians have used for giving from your 'first fruits' is the tithe—giving 10% of our income right off the top. If you don't feel ready for that level of giving, start with a 5% modern tithe or proportional giving and work toward increasing it each year with a spirit of gratitude.

## HOW DO I PLEDGE?

To make a pledge, you can complete a pledge form online at [www.startschurch.org/stewardship](http://www.startschurch.org/stewardship), fill out a pledge form while at church, or contact Demetreus Gregg at [dgregg@stbartschurch.org](mailto:dgregg@stbartschurch.org) or 858.432.7106.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Just as you do with your household budget, St. Bart's calculates how much it costs to run the church for a typical week. That weekly cost comes out to about \$23,897 including:

<b>\$4,869</b> Pastoral Care & Worship	<b>\$4,308</b> Building & Grounds
<b>\$3,037</b> Inspirational Music Program	<b>\$4,419</b> Christian Formation & Programs

## STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

O Lord,  
giver of life and source of freedom,  
I know that all I have received is  
from your hand. Gracious and  
loving God, You call us to be  
stewards of Your abundance, the  
caretakers of all you have  
entrusted to us.  
Help us to always use Your gifts  
wisely and teach us to share them  
generously.  
Amen.



## HOW DO I PAY MY PLEDGE?

Your pledge may be paid at the frequency of your choice (weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually) by check, credit card, appreciated securities or tax-free IRA distributions if you meet certain age requirements. You may also pay your pledge online at [www.stbartschurch.org/give](http://www.stbartschurch.org/give). If you have any questions about payment options, call Demetreus Gregg at 858.432.7106.

## DOES MY PLEDGE REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Yes! St. Bart's relies almost entirely on your contribution to support our mission and ministries. Our church family relies on all of us playing a role. EVERY pledge counts and has a huge impact on the work we can accomplish together.

## WHAT IF I CANNOT PAY MY PLEDGE?

If the state of your finances change during the year, and you are unable to meet your pledge, please know that we are truly grateful for your intention of support. We understand that things change, and we are here for you. Please let us know how much of your pledge you are able to fulfill by contacting Demetreus Gregg, so that we can adjust our records accordingly. Please know that all conversations are confidential and pastoral support is available if needed.

## WHAT IF I PUT MONEY IN THE OFFERING PLATE? DOES THAT TAKE THE PLACE OF A PLEDGE?

Putting money in the offering plate at weekly services is a good spiritual discipline that does not take the place of a pledge. Plate offerings are contributions that we are unable to financially plan for in support of our mission and budget. During special weekend services throughout the year, plate offerings support outside ministry efforts.



# **ADDITIONAL WAYS I CAN SUPPORT ST BART'S IN 2023**

## **Consider a Planned Gift**

The mission and ministries of St. Bart's have been built on the generosity of those that have come before us. Considering a planned gift ensures that your legacy is a priceless inheritance for what matters most to you. Your intentional planning will bring joy and provide support in perpetuity for generations to come.

Our office would be happy to journey with you as you plan your legacy of faith.

## **Develop an Individual Giving Plan**

We recognize that there are many ministries that you may wish to support at St. Bart's. We would be honored to help you develop an individualized giving plan that supports our work today and in the future.

## **Giving a Matching Gift**

If your employer or other business affiliation has a Matching Gift Program, you can further your impact in support of the mission and ministry of St. Bart's.

To explore any of these giving options, for more information, or if you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Demetreus Gregg at 858.432.7106 or at [dgregg@stbartschurch.org](mailto:dgregg@stbartschurch.org)



**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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