

St. John's Episcopal Church

Facts, Faith and Future



Annual Appeal 2016



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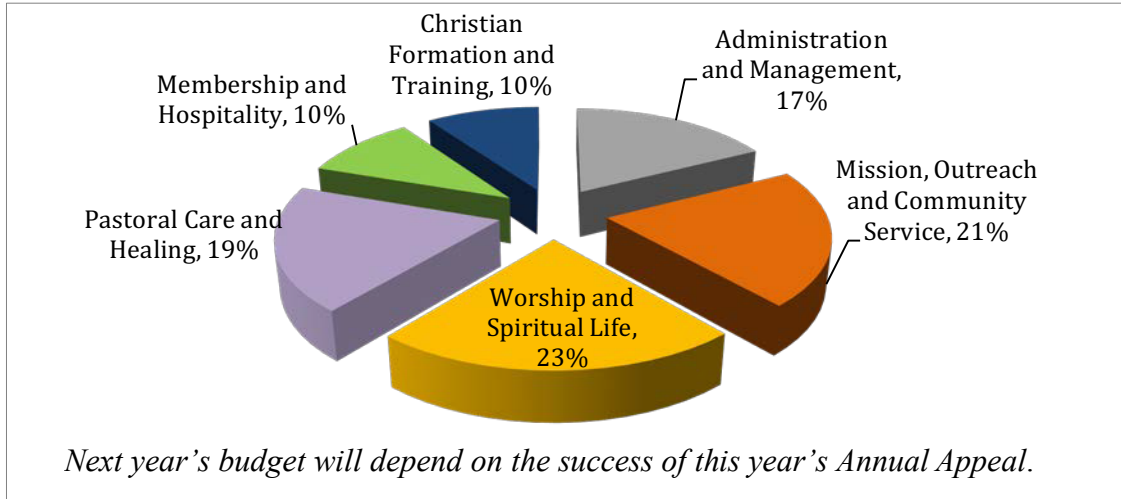
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - ANNUAL APPEAL FOR 2016

FACTS, FAITH, FUTURE

The narrative budget outlined below illustrates how financial resources, including your pledge, are used to support St. John's ministries in the local and wider community. The illustrations use budget percentages.

To support a vital ministry next year, the Vestry hopes to adopt a budget of at least \$300,000.

To make our total budget easier to understand we have allocated it among six categories of ministry. The following paragraphs describe the opportunities and challenges of each area of ministry and the approximate percentage of the total budget that it represents.



WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

To reveal through worship the presence of God

This category reflects the many ways we worship God. Our gorgeous Church is in constant use for worship on Sunday, high holy days, and for weddings, baptisms, funerals, memorial services and the "rest stops" of passersby. A portion of our Priest-in-Charge's salary here reflects his role and talent in leading worship, proclaiming and interpreting the word of God, and nurturing spiritual growth through weddings, baptisms, confirmation, counseling, Bible study, and healing during times of grief.

Every Sunday our church is made beautiful by the work of the Altar and Flower Guilds who prepare the sanctuary for services and celebrations. Chalice bearers, acolytes, lectors, intercessors, ushers, and our Priest-in-Charge, and our Priest Associate, Lance Beizer (a volunteer), all support the

Community's liturgical life. The costs of our Music Director, our music programs, the upkeep of our organ, support for our Adult Choir, and the many ways in which music enhances our worship and brings joy to our lives are in this category. The Priest-in-Charge participates in and provides leadership for the local clergy group and the Litchfield Deanery, Clericus and is active in the Diocese of Connecticut. St. John's is actively involved in area Ecumenical and Interfaith activities that address key issues facing our congregations. These costs also include a portion of the expenses that cover heating, cooling and maintaining the church, needed to nurture and support our worship life together.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND TRAINING

To grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ

A major objective of St. John's is to provide growth in our faith and in the knowledge of God. We seek to equip lay people for their ministries in the Church and in the world. This category includes our Church School program, with a paid church school teacher and volunteers supporting the program. It includes the Christmas Pageant and Stewardship materials. Adult formation opportunities include St. John's Spiritual Book Club, special speaker series and Lenten

study groups led by the Priest-in-Charge and others in our community. The Priest-in-Charge's time devoted to Christian Formation oversight and the church school teacher are in this category. We hope to increase opportunities for adults, while building our programs for children, youth, those with developmental disabilities and the elderly.

MISSION, OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

To reach out to others through the power of the Holy Spirit

Our members are called to give their time and resources to relieve suffering and to be servants of the whole human family, whether overseas or at home. Our outreach takes many forms, and is supported by the operating budget, the Fall Festival, a portion of Capital Campaign donations and special appeals throughout the year. In addition to our Diocesan Pledge, which supports the church's wider mission, we contribute funds for special efforts, such as *The CROP Hunger Walk*, the *Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance*, the *Winter Fuel Fund*, the *SVNA* and others. We contribute food to the *Corner Food Pantry*. We support Louise Lindenmeyr's *Medical Mission to Haiti*. We have supported East Africa Famine Relief, the Bishop's Fund for Children, the rebuilding of the Cathedral in Haiti, and the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East. The Little Guild of St. Francis receives donations from our annual Blessing of the Animals service. Our twice yearly Angel Tree provides gifts and school supplies to needy children in the area.

We support the Food Voucher Program for area hungry, with monies raised through the Annual Crop Walk, having provided 50 vouchers of \$50 each to The Salisbury Family Services to distribute locally as needed. Through our Hispanic Ministry, we support *Puentes*, English as a Second Language and Spanish to those who speak English and conduct ongoing outreach to area Hispanics. Our buildings are also a form of outreach and are used by community organizations such as the Taconic Learning Center, Girl Scouts, A.A. and AL Anon groups, and the Salisbury Hand Drummers.

St. John's provides a home for the Northwest Music Association, which sponsors at least four Baroque Concerts of superb quality every year. We believe that we are called to increase our service to others locally, and in the nation and world.

PASTORAL CARE AND HEALING

To reveal through healing the presence of God

This category represents our pastoral work in bringing God's healing message to the sick and shut-ins in hospitals, homes and nursing facilities, responding to newcomers, and counseling those in distress. Bringing communion to those who cannot attend services provides comfort to those in pain, and is a meaningful part the Priest-in-Charge's work, in collaboration with the Associate and lay ministers, in proclaiming and sharing the presence of the Holy Spirit. We have a regular and active ministry at Noble Horizons and Geer. St. John's offers periodic healing services, and we plan to increase

these offerings. Pastoral care also includes the Priest-in-Charges' consultation with parishioners and others seeking spiritual guidance. The Memorial Garden is a beautiful outdoor sanctuary open for all to visit and offers spiritual renewal. It includes a Columbarium. Our annual Blessing of the Animals offers healing for our animal companions and acknowledges the losses of our pets in the last year. We believe that healing is an essential component of Christian ministry.

MEMBERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY

To grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ

This category reflects the costs related to welcoming the community to our church and providing opportunities for fellowship and hospitality, such as our weekly Coffee Hour, well-organized receptions and meals in the Lower Parish Hall, the Breakfast Club and the Summer Docents. We knit Socks for the Soul, providing free socks for footsore Appalachian Trail hikers. Members of the church prepare collations for funerals, concerts and other special events. We are an active and committed participant in the Town of Salisbury's Fall Festival organizing such time-honored events as *Left-Bank Books*,

Attic Treasures, *Gentlemen's Experienced Clothing*, *Fine and Fancy Jewelry*, the *Pancake Breakfast*, and the latest big hit attraction, *El Salvadorian Pupusas*. We offer a periodic parish newsletter (7-8 per year) with outstanding articles, parishioner profiles, photographs, original art by talented members, and other items of note for the community. We continue to see new ways to practice hospitality where all are welcome.



ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

A significant amount of the work keeps our common life organized. We maintain an office that handles communications and preparation of materials. We have an ongoing budget and accounting function. We have needs for maintenance of the facility, including heating, lighting, cooling, rearranging chairs and tables, because it is so widely used by the community. We are responsible for snow removal, tree maintenance, gutters, elevator maintenance and insurance.

THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US

Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back. (Luke 6:38)

Our goal is to build a firm financial foundation that will secure our ministry now and in the future. We must continue our efforts, outlined in **Facts, Faith & Future**, to adopt a budget that reflects our commitment to God's work through our members' pledges and that reduces our reliance on investment income and fund raising for operating costs.

The good news is that the members of our parish have the financial capability to fully fund the programs, facilities, and ministries we desire. For many, this is a time to seriously think about the importance of the church in our lives and to respond faithfully. We have much to be thankful for.

The success of this appeal will greatly enhance our ability to serve the congregation and the community both now and in the future. We believe that we are responding to God's call in this endeavor.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the purpose of the Annual Appeal?

In addition to raising funds, we hope to increase the congregation's awareness of church finances and how giving supports the ministries of the church. We also hope to strengthen Christian commitment through giving.

How will I determine the size of my pledge?

We must all make our own decisions. It is appropriate that one's pledge be proportional to one's income. The Episcopal Church has established the tithe, or 10% of income, as the standard for giving. If every household would give on a basis of one day's income per month for twelve months, we would significantly increase our pledge income.

What are SHARES?

The requirement for success is the subscription of a *Share* by those who cannot reach a tithe this year. A *Share* equals

The work of the Vestry and its support is included here. This category includes the time of our sexton, the Financial Assistant's work, which is devoted to bookkeeping. The portion of the Priest-in-Charge's time devoted to administration, staff supervision, planning and oversight is also included here. We regularly monitor maintenance issues and take care of them before they become a problem.

\$45 per week for one year, totaling \$2,340. A *Share* is a suggested unit of giving that represents approximately 3% of the median household income. Since some may find that a half-*Share* represents their utmost ability at this time, there must be others willing to pledge in blocks of five, three or two *Shares*.

Another way to think about your pledge is to pledge 3% or 5% of your income and increase your pledge annually by one percent of your income to reach a tithe (10%). Proportionate giving allows everyone to give at a level that reflects their resources.

Are there other ways to make my pledge?

Yes. Some persons may prefer to give from capital assets; appreciated securities, for example, may offer a tax advantage not available in a cash pledge. In addition to current giving, notifying the church that your will includes a bequest facilitates long-term planning. You may wish to consult your tax advisor.

Why is a pledge preferred to a donation?

To support our ministry we must all stretch in our giving. A pledge signifies our commitment to God's work and to each other. For most, a pledge paid over 52 weeks helps us to make a more substantial gift. If necessary, a pledge may be revised during the year.

For more information call the Priest-in-Charge at or visit our website, at www.stjohnssalisbury.org

