

'Old Durham' Parish

Christ Church Durham Parish—We've come this far by faith



Stewardship is a habit...

...that directs how we use the blessing we have received from God. It expresses our faith in God's generosity, our gratitude for our blessings, and our priorities as followers of Jesus.

This brochure highlights the ministries that your time, talents, and dollars make happen. Thank you for your devoted service and financial support of God's work at Old Durham.

**"We've come this far by faith,
Leaning on the Lord, Trusting in
his holy Word, He has never failed
me yet."**

ALBERT A. GOODSON



Caring and Learning
Making virtual connections real



Going out and Blessing
Showing our love for our neighbors



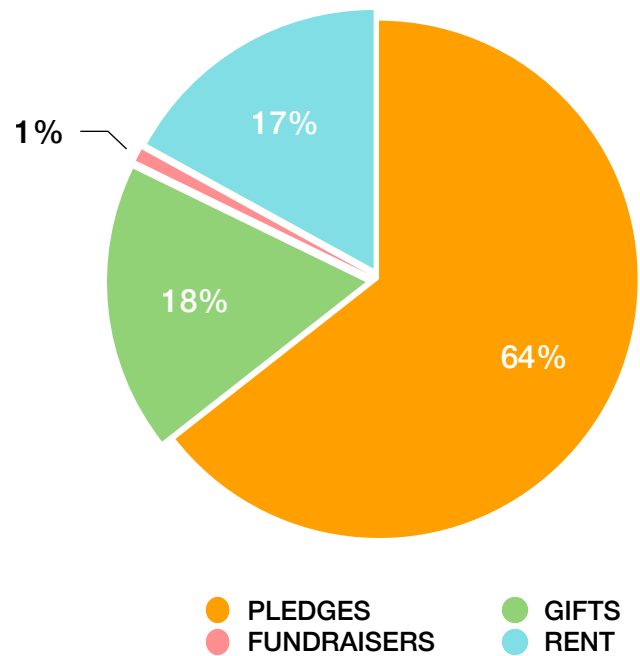
Worshipping and Praying
Finding God everywhere

Where our money comes from

Almost every household that worships with us returned a pledge card for 2021.

Pledges make up the bulk of Durham's income. A financial pledge to the church, of any amount, represents a conscious decision to honor God with a proportion of the gifts God has shared with us. It is the prayerfully chosen proportion (for some people, a *tithe*, or ten percent) and not the amount of our blessings that we share that constitutes faithful giving.

The Vestry uses the pledged income to establish a budget for the year. Other sources of income include our investments and rental income and gifts made to the parish and to Joe's Place. We cannot make plans based on these gifts, but they are welcome reminders of God's on-going provision for us. In most years we also hold fundraisers like the Festival and Fish Fries, but 2021 has not been like most years.



“Give away your life; you’ll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.” Luke 6:38

NOTES TO THE INCOME PIE CHART

The income illustrated by the pie chart totals \$127,019. This represents operating income only, and does not include projected investment income of \$5033 for the parish and \$4,533 for the cemetery. It also excludes directed gifts (for example, to the Heritage Garden Fund) and money collected for specific purposes like purchasing school supplies and holiday dinners for local families. “Pledges” is the amount pledged for 2021. “Gifts” is composed of prior year pledges, donations to Joe’s Place (projected based on Jan-June), and undesignated gifts (projected based on Jan-June). “Fundraisers” is the net amount projected from two Outback dinners. “Rent” is rent received from the Rectory tenants.

In a year like no other, we have been reminded of God’s continuing abundance, and we have sought to follow Christ through the uncertainty of church in a public health crisis.

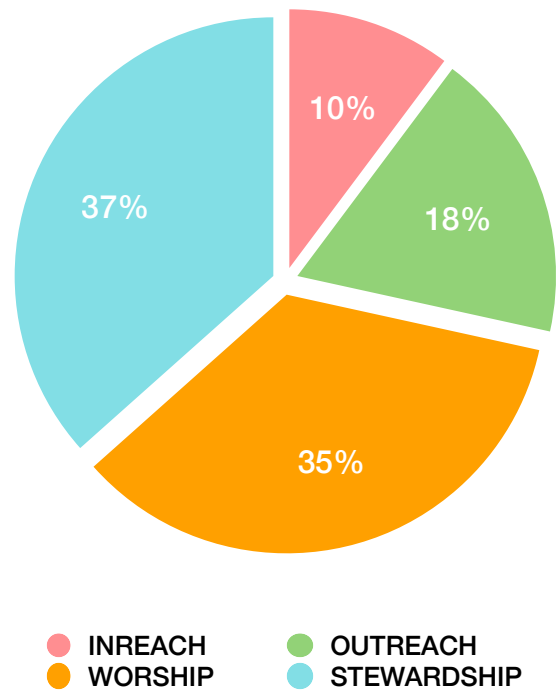
Inreach encompasses things we do to learn more about our faith, things we do to stay connected to one another within the parish, and things we do to care for one another within the parish.

Outreach encompasses things we do to build connections, share, and “live” our faith with those outside the parish.

Worship encompasses things we do together as a worshipping body, mostly on Sunday mornings.

Stewardship encompasses our responsible care of the property and assets with which we have been entrusted.

The parish budget does not support people and buildings as ‘ends’ in themselves, but as instruments of God. The clergy and staff stipends are therefore split out into the ministries that those people perform. Likewise, the cost of maintaining the buildings and grounds is mostly split out into the ways



“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

in which the buildings and grounds are used to glorify God. There is, of course, some inevitable ‘overhead’ that it would be splitting hairs to divide out—things like property taxes, insurance policies, bank fees, and telephone service.

NOTES TO THE EXPENDITURES PIE CHART

The expenses illustrated by the pie chart total \$121,313. This is the parish operating budget of \$119,096 less the \$2800 budgeted for the Outback dinners (because they have shown themselves not to be an expense), plus a projected amount (based on Jan-June) of Joe’s Place expenditures in the amount of \$5017 (because even though we don’t carry it in the budget on our books, Joe’s Place is a major and defining ministry of the church to which parishioners contribute along with their pledges). In 2021, the parish hall has not been used very much, and more of its costs have been allocated to overhead than usual. This has over-weighted “Stewardship” a bit. In a more ‘normal’ year, the costs of running the parish hall would be more evenly distributed among activities like coffee hours, adult formation, fish fries, jam sessions, committee meetings, rentals, etc.

Frequently Asked Questions about Pledging

What is a pledge? A pledge is a promise to contribute a certain amount of money to the church in the coming year.

Why should I pledge? Making a pledge is a way of responding with thanks to God for the material blessings in your life and affirming your support of the mission and ministries of the church. The church plans its staffing and ministries for the year based on pledged income.

How is pledging different from putting money in the collection plate? “Loose-plate” giving—money sent to the church or put in the collection plate not in fulfillment of a formal pledge for the year—is certainly welcome but cannot be used as a basis for planning for the coming year.

Does everyone pledge? The great majority of our active parishioners pledge, as do the clergy. Our goal is for every household to show support for the ministry of the church by pledging.

How much should I pledge? For first-time pledgers, the act of pledging may be more important than the amount, because it reflects a personal commitment to the life of the church. “Proportional giving” is a

way of giving that starts from the question, “How has God blessed me?” rather than, “What does the church need?” Then the decision is made to return a proportion (or percent) of our material blessings to God in gratitude. The Biblical standard is the tithe, or ten percent. If your financial circumstances change over the course of year, you may adjust the amount of your pledge.

How do I make and fulfill a pledge? You can make a pledge by completing a pledge card. Cards are provided to all parish households in the fall. Complete and sign the card, then return it to the church office (christchurchdurhamparish@gmail.com) either electronically or by mail. You can fulfill your pledge either by PayPal or by check. Please note “pledge” in the memo line of your payment.

Can the church accept non-cash gifts and/or electronic payments? Yes. The church can accept appreciated stocks and similar financial instruments. Note on your pledge card how you would like to fulfill your pledge, and we will get in touch with you to work out the details.

Christ Church Durham Parish

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The Rev. Catharine T. Gibson, Rector – The Rev. Susan Fritz, Deacon

The Rt. Rev. Mariann E. Budde, Bishop of Washington

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 