

ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Stewardship 2024



ROOTED IN ABUNDANCE

Jesus says, "I came that they may
have life and have it abundantly."

John 10:10

Rooted in Abundance

November 1, 2023

Dear St. Stephen's Family,

It's hard to believe that we are already almost to the end of the year. Mercifully, temperatures are dropping and there is a crispness in the air that is refreshing. With our entry into November, we begin a season of Gratitude as we continue our journey through this amazing 60th year of St. Stephen's, I am in a deep state of gratitude for all that has come before and all that we have done this year.

As I look ahead to 2024, I am filled with hope that the community of St. Stephen's will continue its good work of striving for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being and grounding itself in sacred tradition combined with a progressive understanding of our Christian call to love our neighbors as ourselves.

This is also a time of year where we get practical, share our plans for the coming year with all of you and ask for your support to help ensure our ability to show up in all the places and ways we are called to serve our parish family and the city we live in.

Included in this email is a proposed operating budget for 2024. As I shared in church last Sunday, this is about our needs for the coming 12-month cycle. This is about what it takes to run St. Stephen's on a day-to-day basis. While there are aspirational aspects of this budget proposal, this is not about the big vision for the future that we have been talking about since the gala.

This is about making sure we have what is needed to run and maintain our campus, fairly compensate staff members who give so much of themselves to our community, provide financial resources to engage and empower a diverse roster of ministries and support our community partners.

Included in this email you will see an overview of the proposed budget. I invite you all to join me this Sunday, 11/5 at 9AM in Spurling Hall for a Q & A regarding the proposed budget, where I will share a bit more detail as to how we arrived at the numbers. Our Treasurer, John Fortman will also be on hand and together we will answer any questions you may have.

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Our theme for our annual pledge drive this year is “Rooted in Abundance”. I give thanks that this is a true statement about the people to St. Stephen’s. We are blessed with an abundance of talent in this community which is leveraged generously and with love to further the mission and ministry of the community we love. And it is also true that we cannot do all that we do without your financial support. Therefore, I ask you to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider how you will support St. Stephen’s in 2024. Your formalized commitment, no matter the amount will help us to make smart and informed decisions about what we will be able to do in 2024.

On Sunday, November 19th, 2023 we will celebrate “Gratitude Sunday” with one special service at 9AM followed by a parish celebration and potluck. You can sign up for the potluck by calling the church office at 661-259-7307. As is our custom at this service we will all place our prayers and pledges on the altar for a special blessing.

In his second letter to the Christian community in Corinth, the Apostle Paul urged them to give generously of their financial resources in service of others just as they give generously in every aspect of their lives when he wrote “Be the best in this work of grace in the same way that you are the best in everything, such as faith, speech, knowledge, total commitment, and the love we inspired in you.” It sounds to me like he could very easily have been talking about the good people of St. Stephen’s Santa Clarita.

I give thanks for each one of you and for the blessing of your presence among us. I pray that as we head into a new year, we can do so with hopeful hearts knowing that what we do here and the love that flows from this place can change the world. And, my friends, the world needs the love and hope of St. Stephen’s Santa Clarita now more than ever.

May God’s blessing be with you and St. Stephen’s today and always.

Faithfully,
Christopher+



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Ministry	Contact	Email
Acolytes	Gina Guaderrama-Frezieres	youth@st-stephens.org
Altar Guild	Mary Mercogliano	Mary.mercogliano@gmail.com
Alzheimer's Walk Team	Jason O'Leary	Joleary41@mac.com
Angel Network	Paula Oliveres	Paula0329@gmail.com
Angel Tree	Victoria Bennet	vbandsf@sbcglobal.net
Anti-Racism Coalition	Mary Jo Higginbotham	maryjohigg@gmail.com
Bookstore	Mary Jo Higginbotham	maryjohigg@gmail.com
Book Study Group	Judy Ferkel	mrsferkel@me.com
Building & Grounds	Steve Plote	seplote@aol.com
Chalice Bearers	Cathy Gero & Steve Plote	Crgero2@att.net seplote@aol.com
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Julia Nelson	childrensministry@st-stephens.org
Circle of Gratitude	Rev. Fran Cantella & Judy Ferkel	revfran@sbcglobal.net mrsferkel@me.com
Daughters of the King	Kathleen Jensen	jensencurl@gmail.com
Education for Ministry	Mary Jo Higginbotham	maryjohigg@gmail.com
Finance Committee	John Fortman	treasurer@st-stephens.org
Food Pantry	Mary Jo Higginbotham	maryjohigg@gmail.com
Hospitality	Kimberly Bridgeford & Shari Schlaman	Kwesley297@aol.com Smstravelbug@gmail.com
Immigrant Support Circle	Rev. Fran Cantella	revfran@sbcglobal.net
Lectionary Readers	Steve Plote	seplote@aol.com
Laundry Love	Cindy Swaisgood	cynthiaswaisgood@sbcglobal.net
Master of Ceremony	Steve Plote & Mary Mercogliano	seplote@aol.com Mary.mercogliano@gmail.com
Men's Group	Dave Morrow	dlrhmorrow@sbcglobal.net
Music	Judith Baity	musicdirector@st-stephens.org
Order of St. Luke	Richard Holdredge	holdredge@earthlink.net
Pathfinders	Julia Nelson	childrensministry@st-stephens.org
Prayer Chain	Peggy Stabile	Pstabile@pegasus2.net
Preschool Manager	Stephanie Rodriguez,	stephanie@st-stephens.org
Recycle	Diane Shaw	dshaw@calarts.edu
SAGES	Linda Weifenbach	Lindaweifenbach@icloud.com
Scouts	Chris Yahnker & Tish Yahnker	chris.yahnker@gmail.com tish.yahnker@gmail.com
Stewardship Committee	Cathy Gero	Crgero2@att.net
Tech Team	Erick Long	Long.erick@gmail.com
The Welcome Table	Rev. Christopher Montella	Christopher@st-stephens.org
Ushers/Greeters	Nick Vestuto	nvestuto@gmail.com
YESS	Gina Guaderrama-Frezieres	youth@st-stephens.org



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St. Stephen's Episcopal Church 2024 Proposed Budget

Category	2023 Budget	2023 % of total	2024 Projected	2024 % of total	+/-
Mission Share	\$52,364	11.25%	\$53,954	10.14%	\$1,590
Loan Repayments - Principal & Interest	\$6,126	1.32%	\$5,739	1.08%	-\$387
Transfers to Non-Operating Funds	\$16,200	3.48%	\$17,700	3.33%	\$1,500
Clergy Salary	\$89,608	19.25%	\$96,051	18.05%	\$6,443
Lay Staff Salary	\$147,840	31.77%	\$158,190	29.72%	\$10,350
Clergy Benefits	\$28,314	6.08%	\$30,074	5.65%	\$1,760
Lay Staff Benefits	\$9,501	2.04%	\$9,983	1.88%	\$482
Employer Tax & Unemployment	\$12,689	2.73%	\$13,482	2.53%	\$793
Utilities & Facilities Expenses	\$48,480	10.42%	\$55,722	10.47%	\$7,242
Office Expenses	\$4,250	0.91%	\$4,550	0.85%	\$300
Technology Expenses	\$20,205	4.34%	\$15,917	2.99%	-\$4,288
Taxes & Insurance Expenses	\$24,900	5.35%	\$26,000	4.89%	\$1,100
Program Expenses	\$7,904	1.70%	\$9,854	1.85%	\$1,950
Ministries Expenses	\$2,500	0.54%	\$1,050	0.20%	-\$1,450
Outreach Expenses	\$1,200	0.26%	\$12,596	2.37%	\$11,396
Communications Expenses	\$10,562	2.27%	\$10,746	2.02%	\$184
Music Expenses	\$6,766	1.45%	\$7,170	1.35%	\$404
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$3,430	0.74%	\$3,430	0.64%	\$0
Total Projected Expenses	\$492,839		\$532,208		
Total Projected Shared Expenses with Preschool	\$97,177		\$110,088		
Projected Plate and Other Income	\$54,040		\$42,120		
Total Projected from Stewardship	\$314,196		\$380,000		
Total Projected Income	\$465,413		\$532,208		
Total Projected Difference	-\$27,426		\$0		

Notes:

Mission Share for 2024 = 12% of 2022 Gross Operating Income

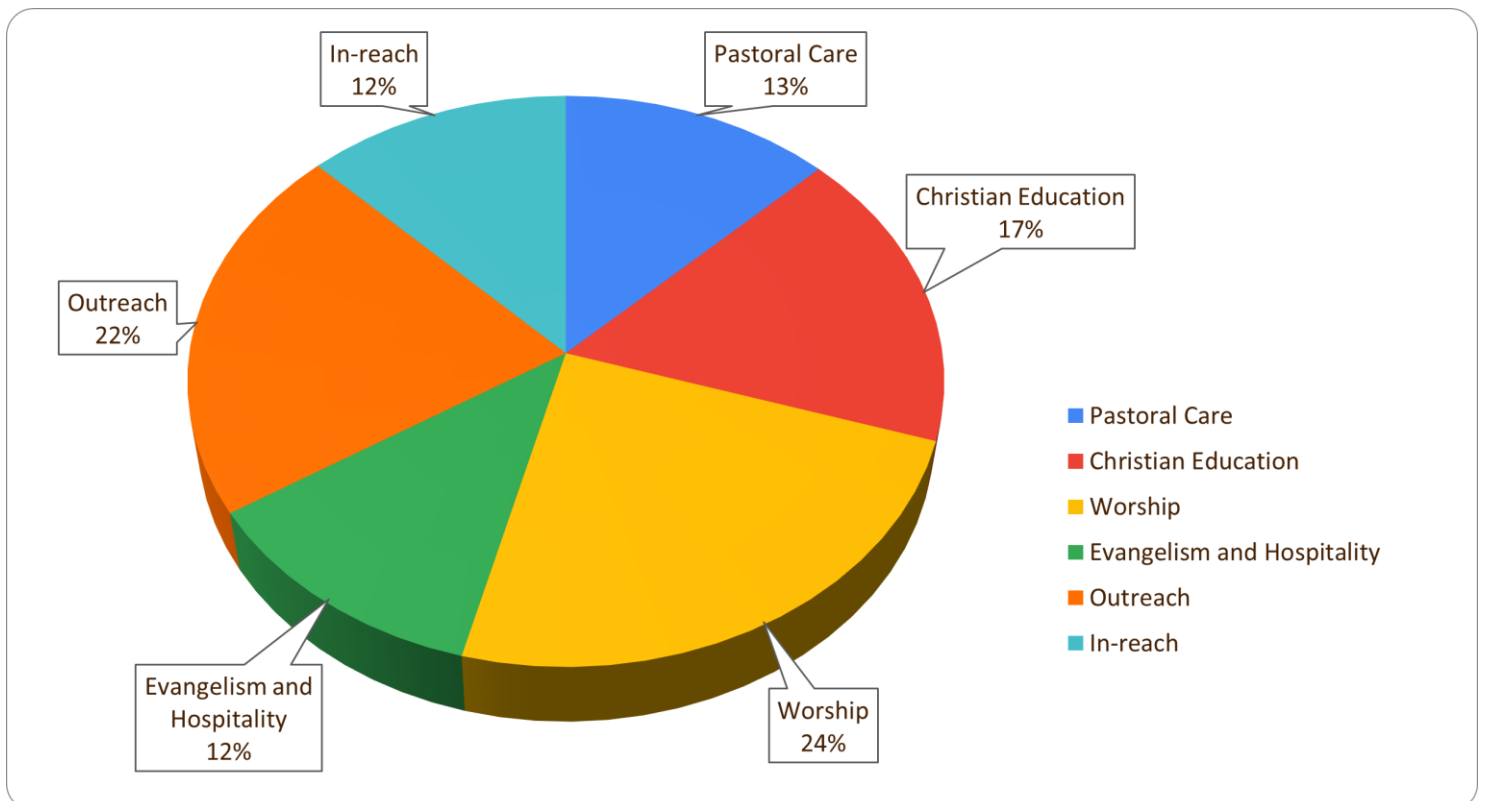
Amounts Transferred to Non-Operating Funds are essentially savings for specific purposes, seen and unseen

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Parish Life is divided into 6 major categories: Worship, Pastoral Care, Christian Education, Evangelism and Hospitality, Outreach & In-reach.

It is essential to understand that for our ministry to sustain and grow there are costs associated with Worship, Pastoral Care, Christian Education, Evangelism & Hospitality, Outreach and In-reach programs. An active and dedicated giving program is the cornerstone of our church community's ministry, development strategy and growth. Such a program has a direct impact on the enduring vitality of our parish. Here you can see an overview of how what we give, as a community, is allocated to support the life and work of this community.

Total Proposed Expenses For 2024 are \$532,208
Total Projected Shared Expenses with Preschool \$110,088
Total Projected Income From Other Sources \$42,120
Total Projected Pledge Goal For 2024 \$380,000



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2024 How Your Pledge Supports our Ministry and Mission

Pastoral Care

Budget Source

Clergy & Lay Emp
Expenses
Office, Utilities, Tech &
Tax
Sabbatical Planning
Clergy Expenses
Discretionary

Christian Education

Budget Source

Clergy & Lay Emp
Expenses
Office, Utilities, Tech &
Tax
Clergy Expenses
Youth Director
Children's Coordinator
Sunday School
Christian formation
Education for Ministry
Communications
Conference Expenses
Continuing Education

Worship

Budget Source

Clergy & Lay Emp
Expenses
Office, Utilities, Tech &
Tax
Clergy Expenses
Supply Clergy
Guest Preachers
Altar supplies
Flowers
Vestments
Communications
Music Director
Music

Evangelism & Hospitality

Budget Source

Clergy & Lay Emp
Expenses
Office, Utilities, Tech &
Tax
Clergy Expenses
Hospitality
Communications

Outreach

Budget Source

Clergy & Lay Emp
Expenses
Office, Utilities, Tech &
Tax
Clergy Expenses
Anti-Racism Coalition
Immigrant Support Circle
Laundry Love
Family Promise
Misc. Homeless
Communications
Mission share

In-reach

Budget Source

Clergy & Lay Emp
Expenses
Office, Utilities, Tech &
Tax
Clergy Expenses
Membership
Anti-Racism Coalition
Stewardship
SAGES
Pathfinders
Y.E.S.S.
Daughters Of the King
Order of Saint Luke
Communications

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Giving at St. Stephen's

Financially supporting the mission and ministry of St. Stephen's has many options, whether paying your pledge, or making a new or recurring donation:

- Online on St. Stephen's homepage:
st-stephens.org/giving
- Text the word GIVE to 661.228.8909
- Mail the pledge card and/or donation to:
24901 Orchard Village Rd.
Santa Clarita, CA 91355
- Use an envelope in the pew and place in the plate

- Use the QRC



We are deeply grateful for your commitment and support.