

2017 Annual Appeal: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Annual Appeal?

The Annual Appeal is the fundraising campaign that supports the mission and yearly programs of the parish. The effort is placed in the larger context of Christian Stewardship, which acknowledges that all we have is a gift from God, and that we bear responsibility for giving for the spread of God's kingdom.

What is a pledge? Why should I pledge? Can't I just give through the plate?

Parish members are asked to make a pledge of annual financial support to sustain our mission and programs. Pledges may then be fulfilled throughout the year in intervals of the donor's choosing – one-time, quarterly, monthly, or weekly, for example. Pledging allows the parish leadership to plan and budget effectively, and to manage with the confidence that programmatic needs will be met.

I'm confused about the timing. Why is this called the 2017 appeal?

This is called the 2017 annual appeal because it seeks to support the 2017 budget. In the last quarter of each year, we appeal to parishioners for the upcoming year. Thus, in October 2016 we have launched the 2017 Annual Appeal.

How long do I have to fulfill my pledge? What forms of payment are accepted?

The Church's fiscal year is the calendar year thus we seek to have all pledges and pledge payments received by December 31. The easiest way to fulfill your pledge is online at www.christchurchgreenwich.org. Other common methods of giving include check, bank transfer, or a gift of securities. If you are age 70 ½ or over, direct donation from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is also an attractive option, as the distribution is not treated as taxable income.

What do most people give? What is the average pledge amount?

How many people give annually?

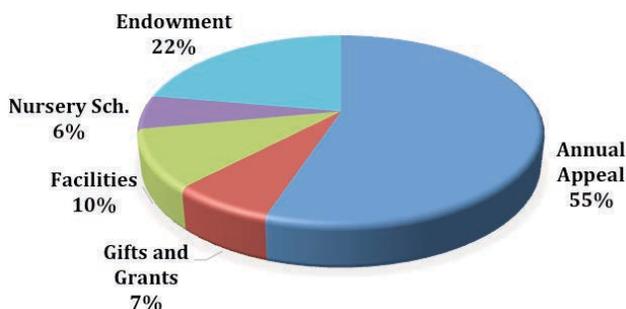
The average annual pledge at Christ Church Greenwich is just over \$3,100. This is a bit higher than the national average of \$2,700. We currently have more than 400 households that pledge annual support to Christ Church Greenwich.

How is the mission of Christ Church Greenwich funded? What is the budget?

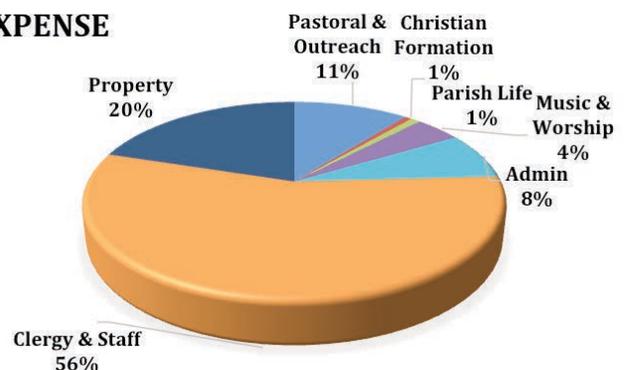
What are the sources of revenue?

The annual budget for Christ Church Greenwich is just under \$2,400,000. The largest source of income is parishioner giving. The Annual Appeal alone funds 55% of the operating budget. It is by far the largest source of programmatic support and we hope that all parishioners will participate. Here is the current breakdown of income and expenses:

INCOME



EXPENSE



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How should I discern my pledge?

The spiritual practice of giving to the Church is grounded in the biblical standard of the tithe, which emphasizes the concepts of proportional giving and giving back to God as first priority. In prayerfully considering your annual pledge, we invite parishioners to consider their household income and to place Christ Church Greenwich at the top of their giving priorities. You might also think about growing your giving to the Church over time and as a reflection of your spiritual maturation. Finally, please consider your part in the common life of this parish.

Does the Church receive any Diocesan financial support?

Episcopal parishes are constituent members of the local Diocese, under the authority of a Bishop, and do not receive any Diocesan financial support. Dioceses are in turn part of the national Church structure. Episcopal parishes are fully self-supporting. We contribute an annual assessment to the Connecticut Diocese, based on our income level, to fund our common life together, provide for diocesan resources for the parish, and outreach to missions and ministries of the Diocese.

Can my pledge be restricted to a particular program or project?

The Annual Appeal seeks to fund the Church's annual operating budget to enable our common life and outreach in the community. If you would like to discuss a special gift to support a specific program, please contact the Stewardship Office.

Does the Church receive corporate Matching Gifts?

Yes, the Church receives some Matching Gifts and this is an area we would like to grow. Corporate Matching Gifts are an excellent way to provide further support for the mission of Christ Church, as many companies will match charitable contributions made by their employees. Please check with your Human Resources Department for guidance as to how the process works. If your employer hesitates to match contributions to religious organizations, your annual pledge payment may be made to the Horseneck Foundation, our community outreach partner for historic preservation of the Christ Church buildings.

To whom may I speak with additional questions?

The Rev'd Suzanne M. Culhane, Curate for Stewardship, will be happy to speak with you. She may be reached in the Parish Office at 203.869.6600, x18 and schulhane@christchurchgreenwich.org. You may also speak with any member of the Annual Appeal Committee: Anne Drake, Peter Helmer, Susan Kelly, Angenette Meaney, Ken Mifflin, and Randy Stern. **Thank you!**



NOURISHMENT FOR THE JOURNEY

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