

St. James' Episcopal Church

1307 N. Main St., Mt. Airy, MD 21771

October 2021



Dear Friend,

God's message is one of hope. Our pledge campaign begins with hope and gratitude - we are so very grateful for all the ways our St. James' community is meeting the challenges of the pandemic. We found ways to continue to share love and joy. Thank you for your flexibility.

This year has been different from other years in terms of what has been asked of us as individuals and as a community. We've experienced the challenges of separation. Some of us are struggling with finances and uncertainty. We believe it is the God we encounter at our church, and recognize in each other, that keeps us together and provides consistency in a shifting world.

We use our financial gifts to serve God, to care for each other, and to show our love for our neighbors. Both our Nursery School and Thrift Shop make significant contributions in meeting operating expenses. This past year, we also received Paycheck Protection Program loans which were able to supplement short falls. However, our pledge and plate offerings continue to provide most of the income we need to fulfill our ministry.

If you are able to increase your pledge this year, please do so because:

- Our costs have increased. For example, our insurance premiums increased because of the fire claim last spring.
- The government Paycheck Protection Program is over.
- Some parishioners are not able to increase their offering because of the pandemic.

As we move through this year's stewardship season, we will hear messages of hope and generosity. We invite you to pray and to consider how you can share the gifts God has given you. We appreciate the commitments and gifts our parishioners have made during this past year, and we ask every member to take part in our stewardship campaign by pledging to fund our ministry for next year. Take a moment to look through this stewardship packet to learn how you can make your pledge. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Vestry.

Our Pledge Consecration Sunday is November 14. Please bring your completed pledge card and join us as we celebrate hope for our St. James' family and our Christian love for each other.

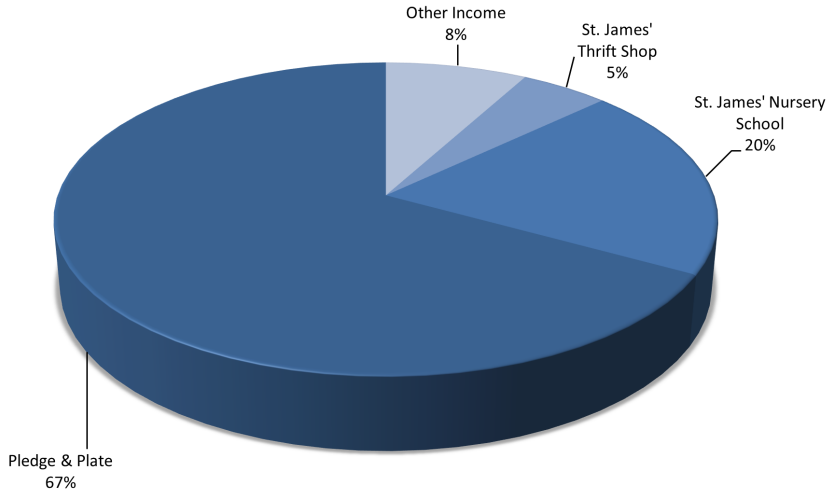
Faithfully,
The Stewardship Committee & St. James' Vestry

"I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

+Jeremiah 29:10-11

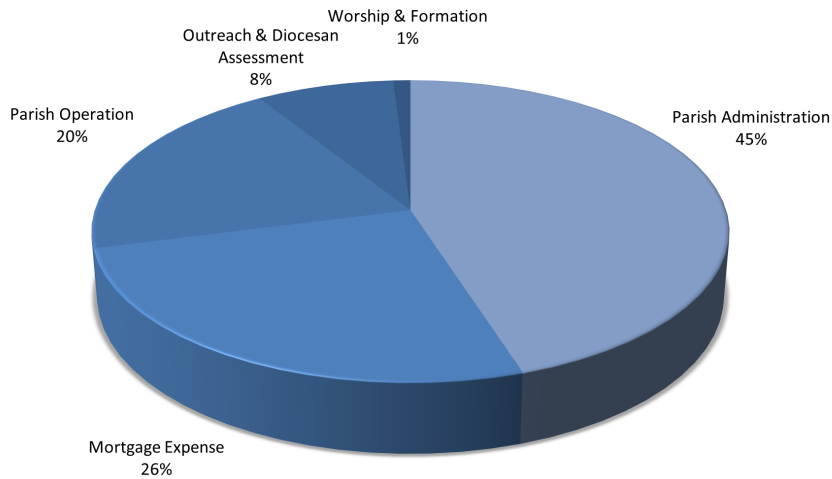
Where does the money come from?

St. James' 2020 Year End Income: \$316,520.00



Where does the money go?

St. James' 2020 Year End Expenses: \$339,756.00



Annual Income	Approximate Weekly Commitment					
	10%	8%	7%	5%	3%	1%
200,000	385	308	269	192	115	38
150,000	288	231	202	144	87	29
100,000	192	154	135	96	28	19
75,000	144	115	101	72	43	15
60,000	115	92	81	58	35	12
50,000	96	77	67	48	29	10
40,000	77	62	54	38	23	7
30,000	58	46	40	29	17	6
20,000	38	31	27	19	12	4