



## ***Christ Church***

*“To seek and serve Christ in all persons....”*

Season after Pentecost, 2015

Dear *Parishioners and Friends*,

*Jeff*---My initial introduction to Christ Church came about shortly after Joslyn and I were engaged to be married. We were searching for a Church to not only be married in, but one that we would feel comfortable and accepting as an important part of our soon to be wedded lives together. After our first meeting with Fr. Dave, the search ended, and the decision was easily made. Fr. Dave’s easy-going, inviting demeanor gave both Joslyn and I a comfortable feeling knowing that Christ Church was a perfect match for both of us, even living an hour away at the time. Seventeen years later, it is evident that our initial decision was the correct one. Shortly after we were married, I was hospitalized for many weeks with a serious medical condition, and forced to make a decision as to which life changing surgery to undergo as a means to save my life. During this time, I began to question many things, including my faith, until my bedside phone rang. On the other end of the line was Fr. Dave, telling me he was praying for me and offering to drive out to Woonsocket, RI to visit with me. Fr. Dave’s call came at a crucial time, and helped bring me to peace with my surgical decision. My faith in God was restored, and my connection to Christ Church was cemented in an unspoken, intangible way that I cannot begin to explain.

*Joslyn*—First, let me say “ditto” to what my husband stated above with regards to how we chose Christ Church to be our “spiritual home”. Christ Church is one of the most beautiful Churches I have seen....to this day, we still have family and friends who attended our wedding 17 years ago commenting on its beauty. However, it was the warm and welcoming community within that really struck us both. I have been involved with the Church School for a number of years now. I have served as a workshop leader, a Shepherd, and, for the past couple of years, have been a doorperson for Godly Play. The children never cease to amaze me with what they think and how they perceive the lessons and stories that are shared. Although I am there to help foster the children’s spirituality, I often find that, I too, am learning and growing. I am constantly reminded to keep my mind and heart open to new perspectives and ideas, and I thank the Christ Church community for that. On June 20, 2000, our son Ryan came into the world, and soon after, was baptized in the Church and became the next member of our family to join the Christ Church family. He made his debut in the Church School Pageant that year as baby Jesus....and all Jeff and I could think was, “Wow, that is a tough role to top! Where does he go from here??!!!” All kidding aside, we have enjoyed watching Ryan grow up in the Church School, and we firmly believe that it has contributed greatly to shaping the young man we see before us today! Ryan just completed his Pilgrimage with his Church group this past summer---what a trip of a lifetime! He will never forget the experiences he had, the people he met, and the things he learned, but more importantly, he will never forget his J2A family. In this day and age, when the world has become a “not so easy place to be” at times (especially as a teenager), we are so thankful that Ryan has the additional support of his Church family to help him find his way, and provide him with an environment that nourishes his spiritual growth and is free from judgment. We are sure Ryan will be all the more “rich” for having been part of such a special group. As per Ryan’s own words: “I am sure that my experiences here in Christ Church will serve me well throughout my entire lifetime”.

We, as a family, have much to be thankful for when it comes to Christ Church, and we are happy to “give back” so that Christ Church may continue to enrich the lives of other families as it has ours. We would like to thank all of you in the Christ Church family for all that you do, and for your continued support, be it time, talent, or treasure.

Sincerely,

*Jeff, Joslyn & Ryan French*

# Visions and Ventures Faith Budget 2016

Categories	Budget 2015 Projected	Budget 2016 Draft	Comment
<b>Income</b>			
Rent/Bldg. Use	1,900	1,850	<i>Pledges remain our chief source of income. 2016 number represents @ 3% increase in pledge income;.</i>
Fundraisers	12,000	12,000	
Our Pledges	211,683.....	213,592.....	
Plate	5,000	5,000	
Gifts	6,000	7,525	
Endowment	51,942.....	42,000.....	<i>We will no longer be using funds from the Small Endowment which will become our Capital Reserve</i>
Rectory School	11,000	11,000	
Interest	485	400	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>300,010</b>	<b>293,367</b>	<i>Decrease for 2016</i>
<b>Disbursements</b>			
<b>Rector</b> (40% is benefits/pension)	95,877.....	96,447.....	<i>.65% raises</i>
<b>Music &amp; Worship</b> (includes 2 part-time Staff, Altar & Supply)	15,974.....	16,068.....	<i>Music staff, Altar &amp; Supply clergy</i>
<b>Diocesan Mission</b> (10% of 2012 Budget)	30,482.....	29,626.....	<i>Diocesan Assessment: Now 10% of '14 Budget (to Dioc. Operating Expense)</i>
<b>Local Mission</b> (to be determined)	3,500.....	7,400.....	<i>2.5% of '14 Budget to "hands-on" outreach per Diocesan Convention</i>
<b>Outreach Mission</b>	20,000.....	22,000.....	<i>CSO</i>
<b>Grounds/Cemetery</b>	13,055.....	13,200.....	<i>Plowing, Mowing &amp; Trash Slight Increase</i>
<b>Buildings</b> (includes 1 part-time Staff)	61,269.....	59,578.....	<i>Sexton's salary increase /expenses decrease</i>
<b>Education</b> (includes 4 part-time Staff)	22,770.....	21,005.....	<i>.65% raise for Church School Directors, J2A Coordinator and Nursery . Other expenses on par</i>
<b>Admin</b> (includes 1 part-time Staff) & Parish Life	28,678.....	28,063.....	<i>Secretary: .65% raise</i>

## ***Welcome to your church... it's about valuing!***

Dear fellow parishioners,

The mission of Christ Church is to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, welcoming all who come through our doors to participate in worship, education, service and fellowship on a journey in Christ, a journey that we believe not only has the power to heal and change us but also has potential to transform the world.

To achieve this mission requires everyday effort by parishioners and the resources of all who can contribute the necessary funds to cover the expenses you see in the Faith Budget on the prior page. Again this November your Stewardship team is asking you to consider what contribution you can make to the mission of the church. Like many you may be working on a contribution objective that you hope to achieve over time. For some this may be 10% of income and for others a more modest objective. Our suggestion is to make your contribution a "reasonable" amount based on your income and expenses.

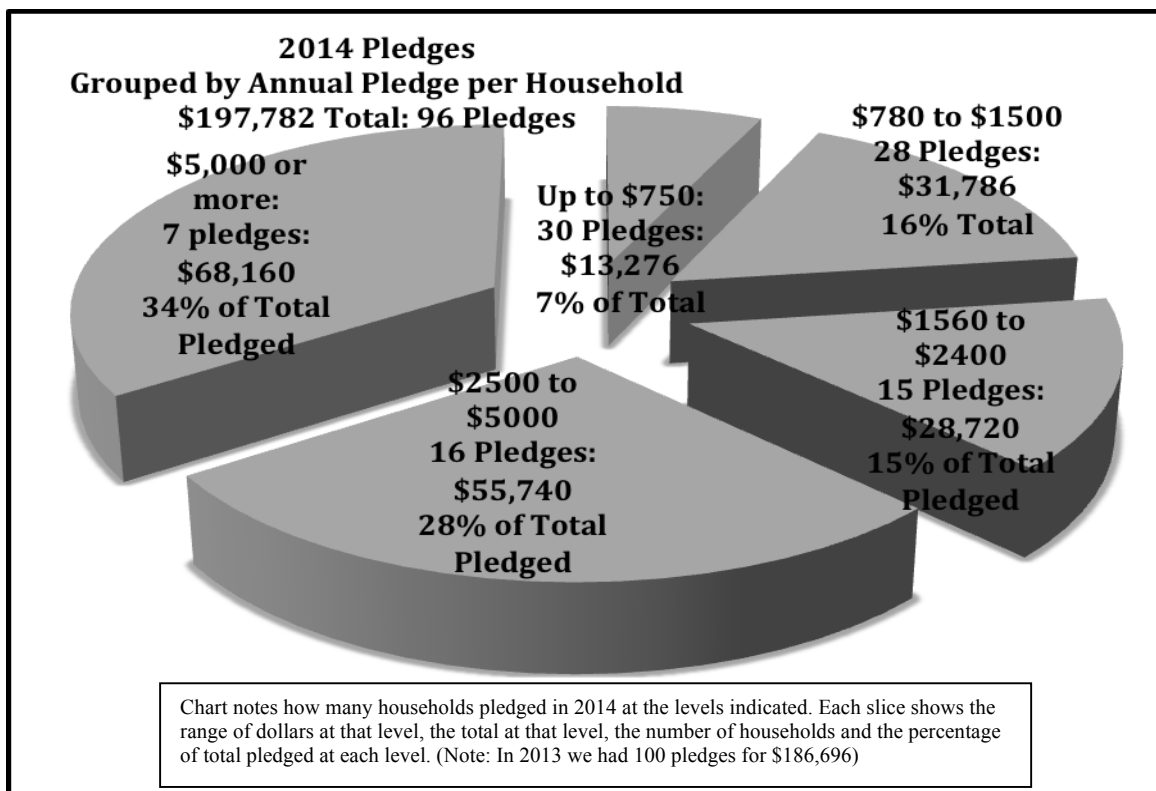
We ask that everyone who plans to make a contribution consider "pledging" that amount so that it may be considered by those making up the budget. All contributions are appreciated, even if you do not decide to pledge.

Your stewardship team is assembling a series of communications for the weekly bulletin the courier newsletter, sermons, homilies and parishioner witnesses culminating with ***Pledge Sunday*** on November 29th. In the meantime please take a moment to review the budget and the pledge analysis on the bottom of this page to see the expense of our mission and the pledges that make up the majority of the contributions.

Sincerely,

Your Stewardship team,

Hank Hague & Glen Archambault Chairs, Tom Hamilton, Kim Lane, Kelly Madenjian,  
Denise Oles and Lisa Watling



## *Chair's Back Page*

The month of November is stewardship month when we all collectively make our financial commitment to support our church's mission for the coming year. Two thirds of the cost of our operations is funded by your annual pledge commitment; this amounts to approximately \$200,000 out of a \$300,000 budget; the final \$100,000 comes from two components: our endowment and active fundraising events. The budget covers the cost of our facility, staff, and outward mission – helping others in need. Your participation is critical.

How do you determine your participation? How do you figure out how much to give of your time and money? Take a moment to think through the number of events you attend during the year related to Christ Church. Attending services, organizing coffee hour, cleaning, fixing, preparing and delivering a lesson for the Sunday school, visiting a shut in, preparing or serving a meal, singing a song, reading a lesson, ushering, helping out at the fair, just to mention a few. How many hours would you estimate that to be over the course of the year? Fifty, one hundred, five hundred hours? Compare the number of hours to your total waking or working hours. How much time do you spend doing other things such as working, playing, or even watching TV – how do you choose to spend your time?

Now that you have considered your time, let's explore your money. Think for a moment of the dollars you contribute to Christ Church such as your pledge, money in the collection plate, special contributions, spending at fundraisers to name a few. How much is this over the course of the year? Ten dollars, one hundred, one thousand or ten thousand dollars per year? Compare this amount to your total annual income. Is it less than one percent, two percent, ten percent or more? How does this amount compare to other things you spend on or save for? Calculate your percentage.

Write down your percentages of time and money. Would you be willing to weigh your time and money differently? Is there a change you would like to make so that you align your resources differently? This is the time of the year to consider your commitment of time and talent as you renew your pledge to Christ Church or make a pledge for the first time.

Are you still trying to figure what to give? There are many ways to come to that amount of time and money. One way is to consider a tithe. The tradition of giving back to God and to the church comes from the Biblical practice of "tithing," which means to give back a tenth of our earnings (and time) to God (Numbers 18:26). How does your gift compare to the 10% tithe? Are you right there, a little bit under, a little bit over, or way off the map; this goes both ways! If you figure you are at 1% or less, this year figure out what 2% might look like and take the leap. Challenge yourself, wherever you are, to increase 1% each year until you reach your goal. Other ways to consider your amount would be to consult the levels or categories of giving at Christ Church. From these you can get a sense of what others do and place yourself in one of these groups. You could consider our average pledge of about \$2,500 or you could consider our operating budget of \$300,000 with approximately 100 families and arrive at a pledge of \$3,000. There are many ways to get to *your* answer.

My personal journey towards a full 10% began some years ago. Each year I have increased my pledge and plan to do so indefinitely. Thinking through why I do this I came across a simple piece on the national Episcopal Church website which sums up my belief. "Stewardship is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God. The Episcopal Church sees stewardship as more than simply contributing money to the church; it's also about contributing time and talents, and volunteering for ministry and mission. *It's about reaching out to build relationships from a perspective of abundance instead of scarcity.*"

**Sunday November 29 is Pledge Sunday.** This is the day we will present all our pledges to our Church. Yes, you can present your pledge at any time by placing it in the collection plate, mailing or dropping by the office. But during the services on Pledge Sunday we will take a few moments to symbolically honor and give thanks for our collective commitments.

Thanks—in advance—Hank Hague