



STEWARDSHIP AT SAINT GABRIEL'S CHURCH



Is the term “pledging” a foreign concept to you?

Do you know what your pledge is used for?

Ever wondered how your pledge compares to others?

“That Our Joy May Be Full...”

Our stewardship theme for 2020-2021 is “That our joy may be full...” These words come from the First Letter of John (1:4). John was Jesus’ closest friend, the “beloved” disciple. He wrote his gospel and letters many years after Jesus’ resurrection. The Christian faith was growing and transforming the world.

At St. Gabriel’s we will work on this theme for two years, as we move through the Rector transition and prepare to celebrate the 150th anniversary of our parish’s founding in 2021. In 2020 we will add to the theme, “Celebrating Christ’s love.” In 2021 we will add the second part of our mission statement, “Sharing Christ’s love,” to our theme.



Definitions

Stewardship can be defined as *all that we do with all that we have*. God has made us in the divine image of love, generosity and freedom. Our Christian life is defined by how we make use of time, talents, and treasure. St. Gabriel's mission is to be "a community of faith celebrating and sharing Christ's love."

Active Membership in the Episcopal Church is defined as a *communicant in good standing*. The definition is *a baptized member who has received Holy Communion at least 3 times during the preceding year unless for good cause prevented, and in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God*. Financial giving is recorded by *pledging* and or making a *special gift* that is "known to the Treasurer."

Pledging is making a commitment to contribute financial support to St. Gabriel's Church. Usually this is done annually in the fall, but can be done any time by contacting the Church Office. Parishioners choose to give weekly, monthly or yearly. Some submit their pledge using pledge envelopes during the Sunday offertory. Quarterly statements are sent to all who pledge.

Special Gifts There are many opportunities to contribute for special needs through the year, including Mission Sundays, Christmas, Easter, Memorials, the clergy discretionary funds, and special projects. The parish bookkeeper works closely with the treasurer to record all *special gifts*. Because these donations are *known to the Treasurer*, they qualify as contributions for *Active Membership* status.

Percentage giving is based upon the biblical concept of the tithe or 10%. Some refer to a "modern" tithe of 5% to the Church and 5% to other charities. Although many parishioners try to work toward the tithe and beyond year by year, the average percentage of giving in the mainline denominations is closer to 1-2%.



Personal Testimony from Frederica See

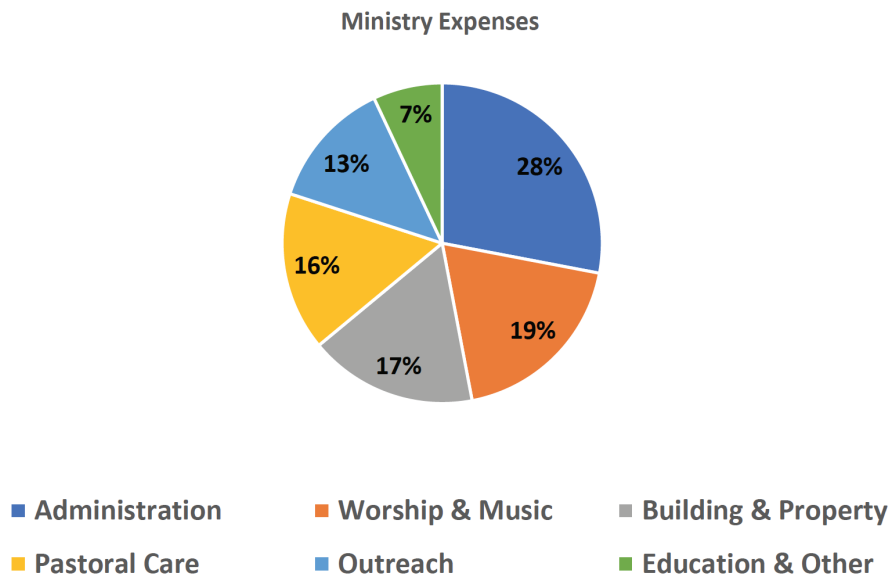
St. Gabriel's was a big part of my childhood. I was baptized and confirmed here.

I attended Sunday school throughout and was even Mary in the Nativity play one year (a big deal). After High School I moved away for many years. When I came to visit, I attended with my Mom for a St. Gabriel's fix; always sitting in the same pew for the 8 o'clock service. I moved back to Marion in 2011. In 2013 I joined the Finance Committee. It was then that I realized how costly it is for St. Gabriel's to fulfill its mission. I increased my pledge 20% that year. St. Gabriel's provides so much for so many, but it costs \$500,000 per year to do that. I have provided for St. Gabriel's in my will and I will continue to pledge so that the church can continue to flourish.

What is my pledge used for?

Financial giving to St. Gabriel’s is just one part of our discipleship and stewardship. We don’t give just to support our budget¹, although the church could not exist without pledges and contributions. We have 5 paid staff, a campus to care for, outreach and mission through the Diocese and in our ministries.

Generosity has defined St. Gabriel’s since our earliest days. As we prepare to celebrate the 150th anniversary of our founding, we want to do our part; to return to God from what God has given us – in thanksgiving, knowing our gifts bring us closer to God’s love and the love we share with one another.



Administration	\$130,092 – 28% (includes Parish Administrator, Bookkeeper)
Worship & Music	\$96,918 – 19% (includes Organist)
Building & Property	\$85,070 – 17% (includes Sexton, cleaning)
Pastoral Care	\$79,718 – 16%
Outreach	\$68,994 – 13% (includes Diocese)
Education & Other	\$36,337 – 7%
	<u>\$497,129</u>

Clergy expenses are divided among five program areas: Administration, Worship & Music, Pastoral Care, Outreach and Education & Other.

¹ For 2020, the parish’s expense budget is \$497,129

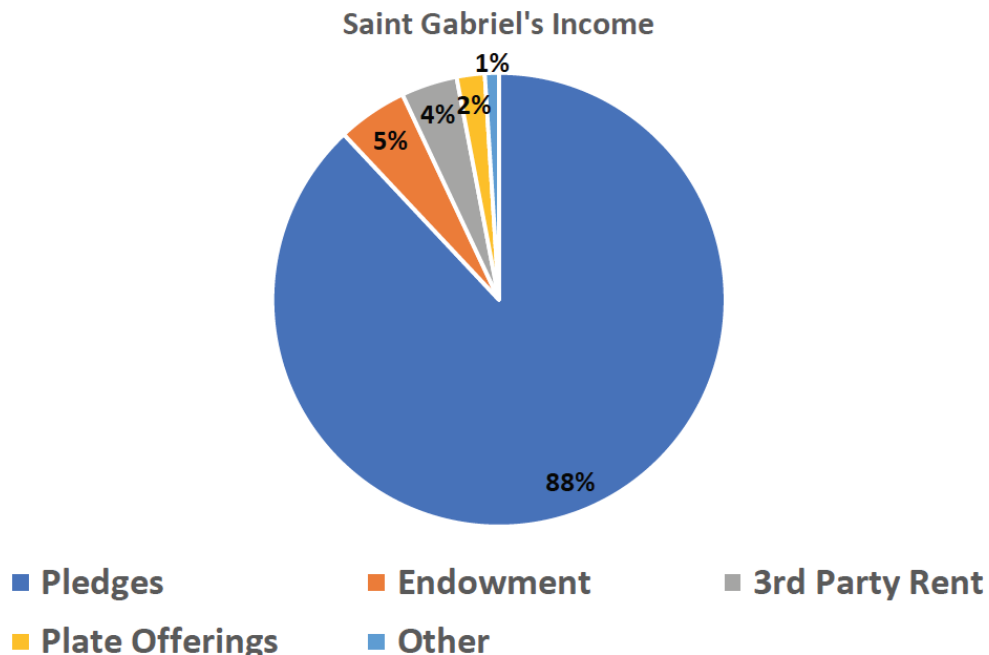
**Personal Testimony from
Bob Larsen, Jr. Warden**

“Peace be with you.” How many times do we use this term without really stopping to think about what it means in our daily lives especially in these trying times. Where does that “Peace” come from? To whom is this “Peace” afforded?

God doesn’t just reserve this “Peace” for humans but all of the creatures around us as well. While I was trying to think of an example to illustrate this concept of universal peace, I watched our two Maine Coon cats wash each other’s faces. They were fulfilling this concept at their basic level of communication. St. Gabriel’s fulfills that same basic need of feeling peace in my life. Hearing the word of God each Sunday renews that feeling. Interfacing with the loving people in our church family helps to sustain that precious feeling from week to week.

When Carol and I first visited St. Gabriel’s, we came away with a feeling that this family had something very special. The more we invested our time, talent, and treasure, the more we were strengthened by this feeling of peace in our everyday lives. The more you invest, the more you receive.

Where do our annual church revenues come from?





Personal Testimony from Cathy Harper

Membership? What does it mean to be a member of a church? Is it the same as membership in a country club, a gym, sailing or tennis club? For example, a member of a golf club pays a fee and then has access to the amenities of the club, the golf course, dining area, function rooms. Membership means privileges. Membership means others will serve you. A country club membership is more about receiving.

Membership in a church is quite different. Membership in a church is more about giving, serving. Membership in a club is about being served, a membership in a church is more about serving. A pledge to the church is not a fee or dues, it is an unconditional, cheerful gift to God given in gratitude for all the blessings we have received.

Review of Pledging 2016-2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total dollars pledged	\$373,302	\$394,965	\$417,197	\$445,985*	\$413,055*
Total households pledging	152	160	145	166	152
Increased pledges/\$	n/a	41	49	41	33/ \$107,235
Same pledges/\$	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	73/ \$221,610
Decreased pledges/\$	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29/ \$72,375
New pledges/\$	n/a	17	10	33	17/ \$11,835

Notes:

*Does not include \$5,500 and \$9,000 in Bounden Duty Fund matching grants.

23 households who pledged in 2019 (total \$17,325) did not pledge in 2020.

2020 Pledges

Dollar Amount	Number of Pledges
\$1 - \$99	5
\$100 - \$249	14
\$250 - \$499	13
\$500 - \$749	21
\$750 - \$999	5
\$1,000 - \$1,499	23
\$1,500 - \$1999	16
\$2,000 - \$2,499	8
\$2,500 - \$4,999	18
\$5,000 - \$7,499	14
\$7,500 - \$9,999	4
\$10,000 - \$19,999	9
\$20,000 - \$30,000	2
Totals : \$413,055	152

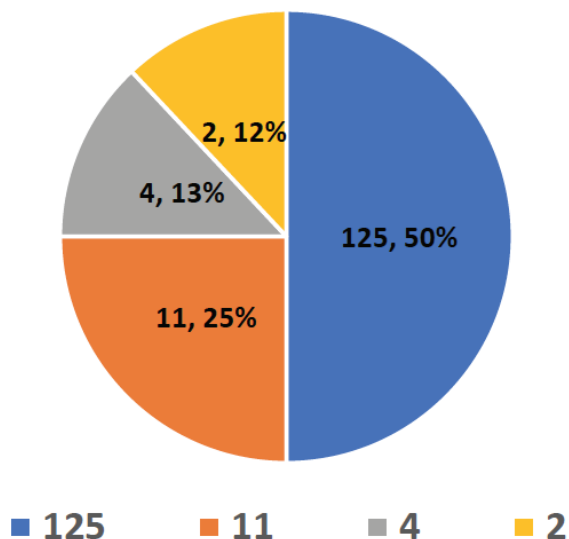
- 17 households provide 50% of the pledge total (see pie chart on page 9)
- 81 households pledge less than \$1,500 per year or less than \$125 each month.
- 53 households pledge less than \$750 per year or less than \$63 each month.
- 17 new pledges total \$11,835; 2 are \$2,500 or more; 3 are \$1,000-1,200; the other 12 total \$2,495.
- The number of households pledging \$2,000 or more per year has fluctuated over the last 5 years from 47-56.



Personal testimony from Mallory Waterman, Sr. Warden

John and I are happy to make an annual pledge to St. Gabriel's because it's a way to give back to the church and to God for all the blessings we receive in life. Attending Sunday services is a weekly gift that restores us spiritually and sets us on the right path for the week ahead. Over time the people of St. Gabriel's have become like family to us. We want St. Gabriel's to flourish and we know the best way to make that happen is through pledging. Now that John and I have held leadership positions in the church, we have an even greater appreciation for how important it is to support the church budget and its ministries. The added benefit is pledging brings us joy!!

Pledges - by Household as a Percentage of Total



Electronic Giving Options!

Saint Gabriel's Episcopal is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular and special offerings.

Here are 3 convenient ways to give.

Online

1. Enter the amount you want to give, select a fund, choose your frequency and enter your email address.
2. Click Continue and enter your payment information to complete the transaction.
3. If you have an Abundant login, you can log in when prompted and use a saved payment method.

Text

1. Text GIVE2SG to 73256.
2. Click the link you receive in your text message response.
3. Follow the prompts to give.

Text giving even saves your information so you can quickly give again.

Mobile

1. Search Abundant Giving in the app store and download the free app.
2. Location our church by typing Saint Gabriel's Episcopal Church in the Abundant search bar. Select our church and sign in or sign up for an account.
3. Follow the prompts to give.
4. Swipe upon the app screen to access your giving history, scheduled gifts and saved payment methods.

A note from our Stewardship Chairs...

This brochure complements and updates the full-color publication, Saint Gabriel's Ministries, otherwise known as "The Carrot Book," printed in 2018. Both the Carrot Book and this brochure explore the meaning of membership as well as describe the centrality of ministry and mission for St. Gabriel's.

These qualities of discipleship of Jesus Christ are the essence of who we are as Episcopalians and members of St. Gabriel's. We are called as stewards to the testimonial truths as evidenced by the founding of St. Gabriel's in Marion almost 150 years ago. These truths are as powerful today as they were then and we celebrate this connection as we recommit ourselves to Christ's passion and love, his resurrection and our redemption. These inform and bring to life our ministries, our God-guided missions and our holy membership. Through all of this, we pray "that our Joy may be full."

Chris and Alice White, Stewardship Chairs





St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church
PO Box 545
124 Front Street
Marion, Massachusetts 02738

Church Telephone 508-748-1507
FAX 508-748-1319

E-Mail: stgabrielsmarion@gmail.com
Web site: www.stgabrielsmarion.org

