

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Let Your Light So Shine



Our Doors Open for You

12 Main Street
Salisbury, Connecticut 06068
860 435 9290
www.stjohnssalisbury.org



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - ANNUAL APPEAL 2012

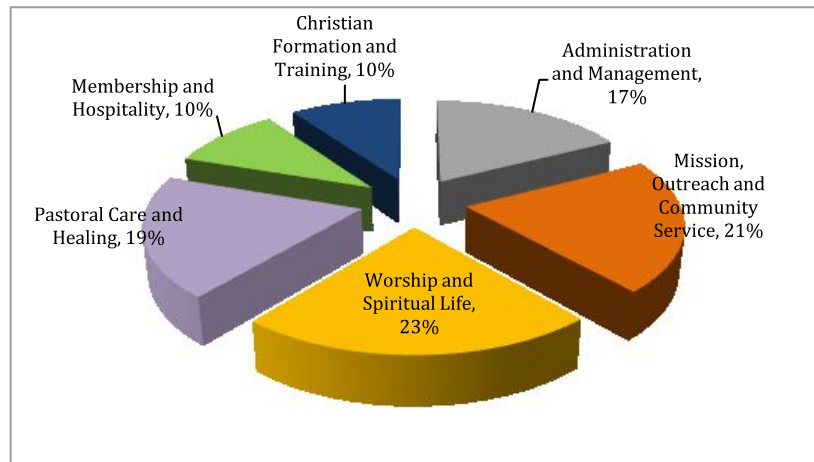
FACTS, FAITH, FUTURE

The narrative budget outlined below illustrates how financial resources, including your pledge, are used to support St. John's ministries in the local and wider community. The illustrations use 2011 budget percentages. The coming year's budget will depend heavily on the success of this stewardship drive.

To support a vital ministry next year, the Vestry hopes to adopt a budget of at least \$301,250 for 2012. Approximately 34% of this will come from investment income, fundraising projects and special offerings; the balance, approximately \$199,000,

comes from our own giving through annual pledges and special offerings. This also assumes that we will continue on the path we started with Facts, Faith, Future in 2010 to reduce the amount of money we take from our portfolio.

To make our total budget easier to understand we have allocated it among six categories of ministry. The following paragraphs describe the opportunities and challenges of each area of ministry and the approximate percentage of the total budget that it represents.



*The pie chart reflects 2011 budget figures.
The 2012 budget will depend on the success of this year's stewardship drive.*

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

To reveal through worship the presence of God

This category reflects the many ways we worship God. Our gorgeous Church is in constant use for worship on Sunday, high holy days, and for weddings, baptisms, funerals, and memorial services. A portion of our Rector's salary here reflects his role and talent in leading worship, proclaiming and interpreting the word of God, and nurturing spiritual growth through weddings, baptisms, confirmation, counseling, Bible study, and healing during times of grief. Every Sunday our church is made beautiful by the work of the Altar and Flower Guilds who prepare the sanctuary for services and celebrations. Chalice bearers, acolytes, lectors, intercessors, ushers, and our Associate Lance Beizer (also a volunteer), all support the community's liturgical life. The costs of our Music Director, music programs, the

upkeep of our organ; support for our Adult Choir, and the many ways in which music enhances our worship and brings joy to our lives are in this category. We continue to nurture a small but vital ministry to the Hispanic community which includes periodic *Misas*. The Rector participates in and provides leadership for the local clergy group and the Litchfield Deanery. St. John's is actively involved in area Ecumenical and Interfaith services, such as at Thanksgiving and Pentecost. These costs also include a portion of the expenses that cover heating, cooling and maintaining the church which nurtures and supports our worship life together. ***Our goal is to restore the Misa worship service and to continue to nurture our common life in worship.***

Worship and Spiritual Life represent 23% of our budget.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND TRAINING

To grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ

A major objective of St. John's is to provide growth in our faith and in the knowledge of God. We seek to equip lay people for their ministries in the Church and in the world. This category includes our Church School program that serves approximately 12 children and youth, with a paid church school teacher and volunteers supporting the program. It includes the work done by our Rector in collaboration with the other area Episcopal Churches on preparation for confirmation. The Confirmation

curriculum and materials, the Christmas Pageant and Stewardship materials are also reflected here. Adult formation opportunities include St. John's Spiritual Book Club, special speaker series and Lenten study groups led by the Rector and others in our community. The Rector's time devoted to Christian Formation oversight and the church school teacher are in this category. ***We hope to increase opportunities for adults, while building our programs for children and youth.***

Christian Formation and Training represents 10% of our budget

MISSION, OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

To reach out to others through the power of the Holy Spirit

Our members are called to give their time and resources to relieve suffering and to be servants of the whole human family, whether overseas or at home. Our outreach takes many forms, and is supported by the operating budget, the Fall Festival and special appeals throughout the year. In addition to our Diocesan Pledge, which supports the church's wider mission, we contribute funds for special efforts, such as Crop Walk for Hunger, Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, Tripitina's Foundation, and the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance. We contribute food to the Owl's Kitchen. We supported Louise Lindenmeyr's Medical Mission to Haiti in 2011 and will do so again in 2012. We have supported East Africa Famine Relief, the Bishop's Fund for Children, the rebuilding of the Cathedral in Haiti, and the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East. The Little Guild of St. Francis receives donations from our annual Blessing of the Animals service. We support the Food Voucher Program for area hungry, having provided 22 vouchers of \$50 each so far in 2011. We have provided emergency financial assistance to 40 individuals and

Mission, Outreach and Community Service represent 21% of our budget.

PASTORAL CARE AND HEALING

To reveal through healing the presence of God

This category represents our pastoral work in bringing God's healing message to the sick and shut-ins in hospitals, homes and nursing facilities, responding to newcomers, and counseling those in distress. Bringing communion to those who cannot attend services provides comfort to those in pain, and is a meaningful part of the Rector's work, in collaboration with the Associate, in proclaiming and sharing the presence of the Holy Spirit. We have a regular and active ministry at Noble Horizons and Geer. St. John's offers periodic healing services. Pastoral

Pastoral Care and Healing represents 19% of our budget.

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

A certain amount of the work that goes on keeps our common life organized. We maintain an office that handles communications and preparation of materials. We have an ongoing budget and accounting function. We have needs for maintenance of the facility, including heating, lighting, cooling, rearranging chairs and tables, because it is so widely used by the community. We are responsible for snow removal, tree maintenance, gutters, elevator maintenance and insurance. The work of the

Administration represents 17% of our budget

MEMBERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY

To grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ

The doors of St. John's are always open. This category reflects the costs related to welcoming the community to our church and providing fellowship opportunities, such as our weekly Coffee Hour, well-organized receptions and meals in the Lower Parish Hall, the Breakfast Club and the Summer Docents. We knit Socks for the Soul, providing free socks for footsore Appalachian Trail hikers. Members of the church prepare collations for funerals, concerts and other special events. We are an active and committed participant in the Town of Salisbury's Fall Festival organizing such time-honored events as

Membership and Hospitality represent 10% of our budget.

their families in 2011 which includes telephone and in-person interviews with information intake and counseling. In 2011 we created the Origami Peace Crane project which involved creation of paper cranes by church school children and parishioners, sending the cranes with letters from children to a shelter in Sendai, Japan and a special altar in the church for victims and their families. Through our Hispanic Ministry, we support *Puentes*, English as a Second Language and Spanish to those who speak English and conduct ongoing outreach to area Hispanics. Our buildings are also a form of outreach and are used by community organizations such as the Taconic Learning Center, Girl Scouts, A.A. and Alanon groups, and the Salisbury Hand Drummers. St. John's provides a home for the Northwest Music Association which sponsors at least four Baroque Concerts of superb quality every year. ***We believe that we are called to increase our service to others locally, and in the nation and world.***

care also includes the Rector's consultation with parishioners and others seeking spiritual guidance. The Memorial Garden is a beautiful outdoor sanctuary open for all to visit and be spiritually renewed and includes plans for a columbarium. Our annual Blessing of the Animals offers healing for our animal companions and acknowledges the losses of our pets in the last year. ***We believe that healing is an essential component of Christian ministry.***

Vestry and its support is included here as well as joint vestry retreats with other Episcopal parishes. This category includes the time of our sexton, the secretary's work which is devoted to administration and the costs of office supplies, equipment and telephones. The portion of the Rector's time devoted to administration, staff supervision, planning and oversight is also included here. ***We have a growing list of deferred maintenance projects that need to be addressed.***

Left-Bank Books, Attic Treasures, Gentlemen's Experienced Clothing, Fine and Fancy Jewelry, the Pancake Breakfast, and the latest big hit attraction, El Salvadorian Pupusas. We offer a periodic parish newsletter (7-8 per year) with outstanding articles, parishioner profiles, photographs, original art by talented members, and other items of note for the community. We maintain a great informative and topical website for everyone interested in St. John's. ***We continue to see new ways to practice hospitality where all are welcome.***

THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US

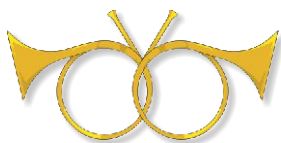
Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back. Luke 6:38

Our goal is to build a firm financial foundation that will secure our ministry now and in the future. We must continue our efforts, outlined in **Facts, Faith & Future**, to adopt a budget that reflects our commitment to God's work through our members' pledges, and reduces our reliance on investment income and fund raising for operating costs.

The good news is that the members of our parish have the financial capability to fully fund the programs, facilities, and ministries we desire. For many, this is a time to seriously think about the importance of the church in our lives and to respond faithfully. We have much to be thankful for.

Some opportunities ahead if giving increases, include: Increasing funding for church school programs and a church school teacher; restoration of funding for the *Misa*, (Spanish language service); strengthening our Christian education program for adults; undertake maintenance projects that will preserve and enhance our beautiful church and . responding to new needs and initiatives as they arise.

The success of this appeal will greatly enhance our ability to serve the congregation and the community both now and in the future. We believe that we are responding to God's call in this endeavor.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the purpose of the Annual Appeal?

In addition to raising funds, we hope to increase the congregation's awareness of church finances and how giving supports the ministries of the church. We also hope to strengthen Christian commitment through giving.

Why are we having an every member visitation appeal this year?

We believe that financial stewardship is an important part of our Christian lives. We also know that becoming a Christian is a life-long process, a journey. As a Christian community we can help each other by sharing our experiences and providing encouragement to one another. Every member visits are a way for us to minister to each other about this important part of our Christian life.

How will I determine the size of my pledge?

We must all make our own decisions. It is appropriate that one's pledge be proportional to one's income. The Episcopal Church has established the tithe, or 10% of income, as the standard for giving. If every household would give on a basis of one day's income per month for twelve months, we would significantly increase our pledge income.

What are SHARES?

The requirement for success is the subscription of a **Share** by those who cannot reach a tithe this year. A **Share** equals \$45 per week for one year, totaling \$2,340. A **Share** is a suggested unit giving that represents approximately 3% of the median household income. Since some may find that a half-**Share** represents their utmost ability at this time, there must be others willing to pledge in blocks of five, three or two **Shares**.

Another way to think about your pledge is to pledge 3% or 5% of your income and increase your pledge annually by one percent of your income to reach a tithe (10%). Proportionate giving allows everyone to give at a level which reflects their resources.

Are there other ways to make my pledge?

Yes. Some persons may prefer to give from capital assets; appreciated securities, for example, may offer a tax advantage not available in a cash pledge. In addition to current giving, notifying the church that your will includes a bequest facilitates long-term planning. You may wish to consult your tax advisor.

Why is a pledge preferred to a donation?

To support our ministry we must all stretch in our giving. A pledge signifies our commitment to God's work and to each other. For most, a pledge paid over 52 weeks helps us to make a more substantial gift. If necessary, a pledge may be revised during the year.

For more information about our ministries and programs, call the Rector at (860) 435-9290 or visit our website at www.stjohnssalisbury.org

