



ST. DUNSTAN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Dear friends,

We are so pleased this year to talk about the theme of our annual stewardship campaign, **All are Welcomed, All are Fed, All are Loved**. We are particularly excited about it because it describes our church community, and how we share our gifts so lovingly with each other.

Our giving tradition at St. Dunstan's has always been focused on how we share all of our gifts – not just our financial gifts. A church needs new ideas, creative people to lead, individuals who know how to solve complex problems, and volunteers to keep our ministries focused on our neighbors. We can talk about this in a three-fold way: wealth, works, and wisdom. If any one of these areas is missing from our community, we are diminished.

Each of us has a gift, some have many. For some it is cooking and baking, others might have beautiful singing voices, we praise those who have an administrative gift of balancing books or counting the collection, we admire those who offer hospitality, who serve at the altar, who help us find a seat as the service begins. Whatever your ministries are, we couldn't be who we are without you; we are each deeply connected to each other through our roots of faith and service.

This is an invitation to let us know what financial gifts you estimate that you can share with us for next year's ministry. We are asking you to estimate what you will give in 2024. We realize this is just an estimate and may need to be adjusted during the year. We build our annual budget around this estimate.

While you know your own household spending and adjust as you need, you should know the church's household budget. We look for other sources of funds and work to keep the discretionary expenses as low as possible,

For 2023, it will take about \$420,000 to cover all our operating expenses. For 2023, about 75% this will be funded from parishioners' donations, or about \$315,000. With this, we still expect to have about a \$25,000 deficit which we will cover from growth in our endowment funds.

At the recent Diocesan convention, we passed a cost-of-living adjustment of 4.6% for clergy salaries. The cost-of-living increase for social security recipients in 2024 will be 3.2%. We will plan for many of our regular expenses to increase by 3-5% over 2023; some of these increases are already known.

Our feeding ministry is designed to be self-supporting. In 2023, we expect to pay about \$46,000 for the food that we can't glean and other expenses. About 55% of this is funded by regular contributors. The rest comes from fundraising efforts and other contributions that are received. You are also invited to estimate a regular contribution to this ministry.

So, we ask you to search your hearts and personal finances to determine what your estimated giving to St. Dunstan's can be for 2024. Fill out the card. You can mail it back, or join us on November 19, 2023, as we consecrate these giving estimates. We will follow the service with a Thanksgiving brunch. We will provide the roasted turkeys; you bring your favorite side dishes.

Thank you for your generosity, once again.

In gratitude,

The Stewardship Committee: Tina Polf, Brynne Sterling and Jill Wear