

Stewardship 2022



November 21, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill,

As we approach Stewardship Sunday and Thanksgiving, it seems easier to look back in gratitude than perhaps at any time in recent memory. This year, particularly, there is so much for which to give thanks.

A year ago, we were doing “COVID church,” confined at home, unable to interact with each other except through a video screen. From necessity, Stewardship Sunday was an improvised drive-by and, for many of us, Thanksgiving was held apart from family and friends.

This year, we say with deep gratitude, things are much better. Though the number of COVID cases remains high in many parts of the country, most of us, including a growing number of our children, are vaccinated and able to resume our normal lives—still careful and masked while indoors, but moving in the right direction.

Our Stewardship theme this year comes from Matthew 25:31-46, in which Jesus exhorts his followers to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and welcome the stranger. “Truly I tell you,” Jesus says, “just as you did it to the least of these . . . you did it to me.” That familiar lesson can be summarized in three words:

- Gathering
- Blessing
- Serving

In a year when we have returned to live worship, that first word—Gathering—seems the most obvious, but in Scripture, as in the life of our congregation, the three work together.

We gather as a community of faith every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.—of course. But we also gather at many other times: for Bible Study and Theology on Tap, for committee meetings and youth group, for the women’s circle, the talent show, or a minor league baseball game.

Our gathering together enables us to receive God’s blessing, through worship, prayer, song, or even seeing a familiar or long-missed face at coffee hour after worship.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHESTNUT HILL

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God's blessings help us serve each other and our community, through the gifts of our voice, our time, our labor, and our witness working with mission partners as the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry, the Souls Shot Portrait Project, Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence, and many others.

But also—because, yes, this *is* a Stewardship letter—we serve God and each other through our financial gifts to this church.

Thanks to prudent budgeting by our Session and two federal grants, we have been able to weather the financial storm of COVID while still paying our staff, maintaining our facilities, and continuing most of our programs. As most of you have noticed, we have been able to install new video equipment to livestream worship, which helps church members who cannot attend worship to remain connected and for potential new members to find us.

Over the last few years, due to the stress of the pandemic and an uncertain economy, our pledges have been down, both the total amount pledged and the number of church members making pledges. As we resume our life together in person as a congregation, we hope to rebuild our stewardship commitment, as well. (See the enclosed page for more information.)

Your financial support enables us to worship, to serve those in need, to connect with one another, and to do the work we are called to do in the world. We urge you to make or renew your commitment to PCCH so we can gather, be blessed, and serve.

If you have pledged in the past, thank you. Please pledge again and consider increasing your pledge by 1% or more. And if you have not pledged recently, please do so this year. It is important that all of us participate to the extent that we are able.

There are three ways to make your pledge:

- Bring your pledge card to church on ***Stewardship Sunday, November 21*** and plan to join us for the traditional Stewardship Brunch following worship.
- Mail your pledge card to the church in the enclosed envelope.
- Email a confidential pledge to our church administrator, Megan McGowan, at mmcgowan@chestnuthillpres.org

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, the Session, and our staff, thank you for sharing your faith in so many ways, and for your financial support of the ministry we share.

Faithfully,

Your Stewardship Committee

Linda Amsterdam, Mark Bernstein, Matt Eastman, Laurie Menyo, Jim Lutz, John Wilkinson
(staff)

The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill

Financial Snapshot for Stewardship

November 2021

REVENUE/ INCOME	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Year-to- date as of 11-1
Pledging	719,700	661,570	686,400	566,681	620,000* (554,000)	422,368
Other Congregational	60,070	63,787	60,000	74,862	60,000	41,203
Preschool Building	60,000	60,000	60,000	22,500 (adjusted)	45,000 (adjusted)	35,000
Building Use/Other	78,368	86,869	82,200	31,668	57,200	73,995
Total Endowment	120,226	118,470	119,401	120,921	126,612	94,753
TOTAL	1,038,196	990,796	1,008,001	816,632	908,812	667,319
EXPENSE						
PERSONNEL						
Pastoral	305,609	299,052	265,287	256,291	270,248	243,311
Program and Administrative	203,364	209,818	242,267	247,575	247,755	178,273
Other	105,223	78,432	63,977	49,623	63,977	41,642
Sub-total	614,196	587,302	571,531	553,489	581,980	463,225
Program	83,650	74,938	65,950	30,244	62,441	52,880
Administration	103,350	96,186	109,000	91,896	119,000	85,368
Building and Grounds	149,500	164,500	169,500	153,394	169,500	165,164
Mission/Social Witness	87,500	77,946	92,020	71,348	82,020	16,701**
TOTAL	1,038,198	1,000,872	1,008,001	900,371	1,014,941	783,609
Revenue/Expense	0	(10,076)	0	(83,739)	(106,129)	(116,290)

See reverse side for comments...

FINANCIAL NOTES...

- *The 2021 budget includes \$620,000 for pledged income. At the close of the stewardship campaign in early spring, our pledge total was \$554,000, representing 143 pledges.

2021 – 143 pledges for \$554,000

2020 – 150 pledges for \$556,681

2019 – 150 pledges for \$661,579

- In 2020 and 2021, we received federal loans of \$204,000 from the Paycheck Protection Program. We have achieved full forgiveness for both by meeting various criteria.

Each of those two years, we apportioned \$137,000 to the church's personnel expenses and \$67,000 to the Preschool's personnel expenses. They effectively allowed us to close budget gaps for 2020 and 2021. However, those loans are non-recurring and WILL NOT BE available in 2022.

- The "Program" line item represents the total costs of Music and Arts, Church Life and Education (children, youth and adults)
- 2022 personnel expenses will reflect an increase to support the full-time interim associate pastor position.
- **The 2021 year-to-date Mission/Social Witness disbursement happens primarily in December to support our many mission partners.

What can do you???

- Complete your 2021 pledge in a timely way, and make an extra gift if you are able.
- If you pledged in 2021, please renew and increase your 2022 pledge.
- If you did not pledge in 2021, or have never pledged, make 2022 the year!

Stewardship Sunday is November 21 – bring your pledge card to worship and join us for our traditional Stewardship Brunch!!!