

**About Our Stewardship**  
**Tony Ashworth, People's Warden**  
**June 6, 2018**

As members of this parish we accept the responsibility to provide a living wage for our employees (both clergy and staff), to maintain the property (for both the present and posterity) and to support our various ministries. To fulfill these obligations, we provide our time and talents in areas of our personal interests. In addition, we must account for the financial necessities of our daily operations.

In accepting the budget as presented to the Vestry in early March, we agreed to support expenditures in the amount of \$581,950 in the current year. Of this, only 68% is expected to be raised as offerings from our members. An additional 16% (\$93,000) will have been provided by our forbearers through various trusts and 7% will be granted by the Diocese. The additional 9% comes from miscellaneous forms of revenue.

In the first four months of this year, attendance at regular Sunday morning services dropped, on average, by two people each week. During the same period offerings are \$18,670 less than last year. This is in spite of the fact that we have identified requirements of an additional \$10,000.

Though inflation has fortunately been low, our costs have continued to increase annually. To keep up with this requires every one of us to carefully

examine our personal priorities and, hopefully, find our way to increase our support. Should we not do so, we will need to draw down capital from our trusts. This will become a vicious, self-destructive cycle.

Seventy percent of those members of our congregation who actually contribute provide between \$100 and \$3,000 annually (\$2 and \$60 per week). Fifteen percent contribute more while fifteen percent contribute less. Thus, it is absolutely necessary that the large majority in the middle provide a significant portion of any increase if we are to meet our obligations.

The Cathedral budget is all about mission and ministry. As we make our offerings to God, we are supporting work in our community, our country and around the world. We give thanks for your support in all of this, but are mindful that we could accomplish much more with your further support. We cannot stand still. We either go forward or gradually become irrelevant!