

## *And they'll know we are Christians by our Love*



*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.*

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each other's pride.*

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*Author: Peter Scholtes Tune: ST. BRENDAN'S*

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit (ECOHS) embodies the words found in this hymn.

### *We are one in the Spirit. . .*

Sunday worship, Thursday healing service, Compline

Bible study, Adult formation, Theology, EFM, Group Spiritual Direction, Children and Youth programs, Pre-School, Nursery care, Vacation Bible School

### *We walk with each other. . .*

Pastoral care, home communion, hospital visitations, prayer circle, meals, memorials

### *We work with each other. . .*

Sundays: Acolytes, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Lay Eucharistic ministers, Lectors, Vergers, Ushers, Children's Chapel, Coffee Hour hosts, Parish Choir, St. Dunstan's Ringers

Hospitality: Kitchen crew, Parish meals, Beloved Sisters, Men's Group, Parish Weekend, Fish Fry, Red Door Festival, Friday Night Fun Night, SASSE, Kite Day, Women's Prayer Brunch

Vestry, Holy Mowers, Buildings and Grounds, Worship Committee, Outreach Committee, Pastoral Care Committee, Hospitality Committee, Memorials Committee

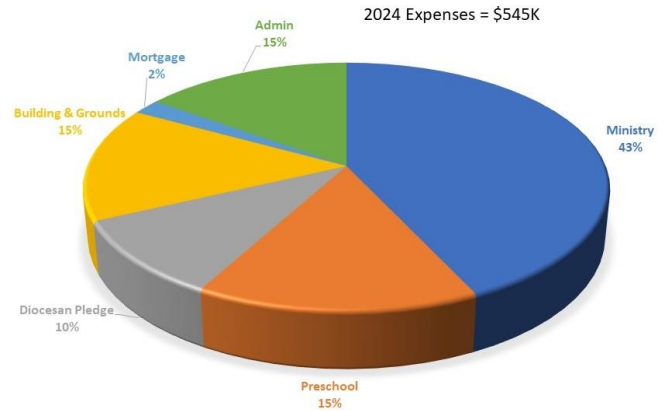
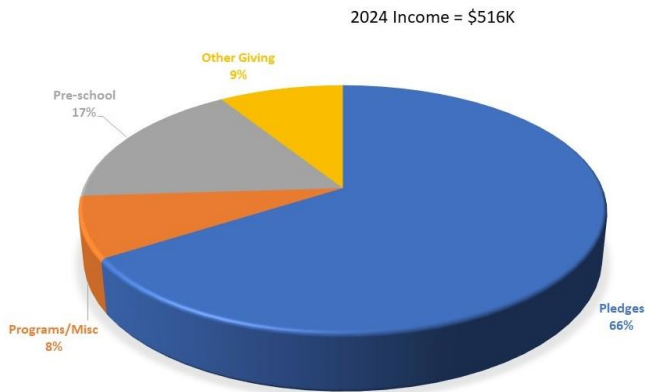
### *And they'll know we are Christians by our Love. . .*

Backpacks of Love, Wendy's Place, Family Promise, In-stiches/Days for Girls, Honduras Mission, Pre-School, Angel Tree

*The following pages are a testimony to how ECOHS embodies the Christian call to love and serve one another. Your giving enables our outreach and formation ministries, our clergy, staff and the maintenance of our church and grounds. We invite you to read the following pages and prayerfully respond with your financial commitment for 2025.*



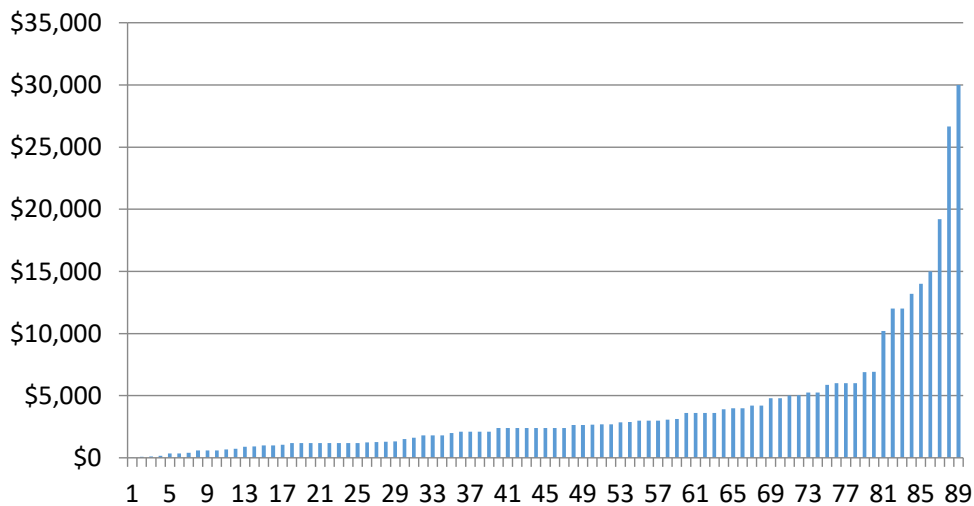
# WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT



## Projected Income & Expenses for 2024

As you can see, our biggest expense is the funding of ministry which enables our formation and outreach programs. Our biggest source of income is our pledges. Our recent capital campaign commitments to pay off our mortgage will really help with our expenses going forward, but we still expect to incur a deficit at year end 2024 due to inflationary pressures on salaries and many other items. We appreciate each one of you who pledged in 2024 and ask that everyone consider carefully increasing the gift you might be able to return to God to continue our work in 2025.

## Annual Pledges 2024



Every pledge is important! This chart shows each of our 89 pledges for 2024. Where are you on the chart? Are you able to move your bar to the right for 2025?

## And they'll know we are Christians by our Love

“Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit”



### Worship

**8712 Volunteer Hours**

Altar Guild, Altar Flowers, Broadcasting, Music program, Acolytes, Vergers, Lectors, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Children's Chapel

### Children & Youth & Adult Formation

**1900 Volunteer Hours**

Sunday School, Nursery, Christmas Pageant, Youth Group and Activities, EFM

### Pastoral Support

**864 Volunteer Hours**

Prayer Circle, Home visits, Phone calls, Meals, Compline, In-Stiches

### Hospitality

**2220 Volunteer Hours**

Kick off Sunday, Fish Fry, Prayer Brunch, Parish Weekend, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Beloved Sisters, Pancake Supper, Lenten Suppers, Men's Breakfast, Steak Dinner, Easter Brunch, Receptions, Coffee Hour Hosts.

### Vestry, Treasurer

**1350 Volunteer Hours**

Vestry Person of the Day, Finances, Stewardship Campaign, Vestry meetings and various committee liaisons.

### Buildings and Grounds

**1066 Volunteer Hours**

Holy Mowers, Kitchen Maintenance, Parish Work Day, Labyrinth, Junior Warden, oversight and repairs.

### Outreach

**7754 Volunteer Hours**

Wendy's Place, Family Promise, Honduras Mission, Red Door Festival, Angel Tree, Pre-School, Days for Girls, Backpacks of Love (Not included the countless hours given by individuals in other community non-profits.)

**Total Volunteer Hours \*23,866**

\*The total numbers are based on the numbers provided and reflects best estimates.

Beloved Members of Holy Spirit,

By my estimation, there are, broadly, two ways of viewing our spiritual lives. One way, and, I think, the far more popular way, is to conceive of the spiritual as an aspect of our lives, a component. In this model, it is the least tangible component, and therefore the least serviced by our culture.

Because of this, it can slip away from our notice, as few things in our lives seek to actively promote it. There are no products to buy. Indeed, spirituality is not consumed, but rather persistently nourishes, hence no media seek to sell it. You can't drive it, wear it, nor use it to display your stuff. Indeed, it is largely anti-stuff. There are no badges nor belts nor titles to earn, no trophies to win. When we bow, no one applauds. True spirituality cannot be commodified, therefore our culture does not understand how to place value on it.

And, so, given that our cultural schemata fail to include the spiritual, we often relegate it to an afterthought--something to engage in if nothing else is going on. We might worship if there are no games, clubs, outings, or other endeavors going on. We might pray if all else fails. When we give thanks, it is often for stuff, or the ability to obtain stuff.

But, not all cultures function like ours. The concept of tithing originated in a people who considered the spiritual to be the very core framework of their society. For the Hebrew people, their spirituality was the source of their very identity, and therefore all their laws, customs, ethics, economy, and culture sprang forth from that central, spiritual reality.

Over the past 3000 years, everything that constitutes our society--and every other society on earth--has been taken away from them over and over again. Every other group who has lost what they have lost has simply ceased to be. And, yet, they remain, because their identity is predicated on the indelible and eternal. They are defined by their relationship with God.

And, so, it is the wise among us who base their lives on the same thing. When people notice how special our Church of the Holy Spirit is, they are noticing how the people here make their spirituality the central structure of their lives. They are noticing how people have engaged in the community enough that they have become like a family. They are noticing the care and love and devotion poured into our common life here. They are seeing the results of generations of people who gave of themselves so that we all might prosper.

As the song says, they see that we are one in the Spirit. They see how we guard the dignity of every living creature. They know how we work together, side by side. They know us by our love. They know us by our love.

We define ourselves by that which binds us together and binds us to God. To be a member of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit is to participate in this grand and blessed tradition. It is not enough to WANT what makes this place special. We must BE what makes this place special. Only then can we continue to prosper and have the resources to follow the Holy Spirit where she leads.

This is not something that happens magically, but it is something that happens mystically. It happens when we give up those things which keep us separate and aloof and detached, and engage instead in the Great Mysteries that bind us all. To love we must actively love. It is then that we become the very Body of Christ. It happens when we align ourselves wisely, seeking to base our lives in the spiritual and not in the things which are temporary.

As Christ teaches us,

Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the nations who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. --Matthew 6:31-33

Yours in the Spirit, walking hand in hand,  
Father Brandon+