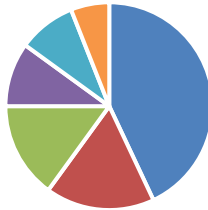


# ***The Invitation of Abundance***

The Episcopal Parish of the Holy Communion  
Glendale Springs, North Carolina

## Annual Budget Proposal

### Projected 2025 Budget



■ Worship   ■ Outreach   ■ Formation  
■ Pastoral Care   ■ Stewardship   ■ Parish Life

Think for a moment about your life. Can you name something for which you are thankful? Is there something that has come to you as a gift—unconditional and unearned? Even in the darkest moments of life, people of faith have given testimony to the abundance of God’s unconditional and unearned love. As we gather weekly at the Eucharistic feast, we receive the love and acceptance of an abundant God. We take this abundant love into our lives, and it overflows into the world in which we are called to serve Christ in all persons.

As odd as it may seem at first, our parish’s annual budget is an expression of that abundant and generous love at work in the world. We are the agents of that love. Our resources—our time, talents, and treasure—are the means by which we demonstrate unconditional and unearned love toward the whole of God’s creation. While our parish faces challenges, our giving is a way for us to express our faith in the work of our parish and its future in our community. The purpose of the narrative budget that follows is to show how the gifts that we, together, contribute through our parish are used to share God’s abundant love with our parish, our community, and our world. From this budget presentation, it will be clear that no one of us can do all the things that together we can accomplish when we pool our resources.

## **Expenditures for the Ministry of Holy Communion**

The following areas reflect the life and ministry of our parish. In each section, you will find the percentage of the total budget and the actual amount of the budget that is estimated to support this aspect of our ministry.

**Worship (43%/\$87,000).** Worship is the central activity of our parish, and it requires the investment of the largest portion of our resources. Generations have gathered at our churches to sing praise, read scripture, offer prayers, proclaim the Gospel, and share around the Lord's table. We worship together on Sunday. In 2025, we will gather more regularly during the week for worship. We also worship together at other times--Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, and for weddings and funerals. We have the wonderful resources of our historic and beautiful buildings, the richness of our liturgy, and gifted ordained and lay leaders who shape our worship together. Our priest invests a significant part of his time in preparing for worship each week. Numerous lay volunteers also assist in preparing for and leading in worship, including the altar guild, choir, musicians, lectors, acolytes, and chalists.

Worship is the foundational activity of our community that undergirds the rest of our work. As we gather at the altar to remember God's love poured out for us and into us, we present ourselves to God as a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1). We are empowered "to love and serve (God) as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord" (BCP 366).

**Outreach (17%/\$35,600).** Outreach includes all the activities and ministries of our parish where we seek to serve Christ in our community and across the globe. Outreach is our response to God's abundant and gracious love. Our Fresco Docents are our frontline in our outreach to the thousands of pilgrims who visit our churches. We also work to send funds to meet needs in our community through a variety of local charities.

Our Church's motto is, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You." At Holy Communion, we use our resources to carry out that motto in all that we do. Our Fresco Festival each fall, our small advertisement in the local newspaper, our Facebook presence, our weekly online service recordings, clean buildings, well-maintained facilities, Inquirer's classes, and social activities for newcomers are some of the many ways we welcome new people into our community and invite people to learn more about following Jesus.

A substantial amount of this part of our budget consists of our diocesan pledge. We add our resources to those of other parishes across the Diocese of Western North Carolina to support its work and the worldwide ministries of The Episcopal Church. Our current pledge is 10% of our total operating budget. Some of these monies provide scholarships for young people to attend

our diocesan summer camp. These funds also provide money for grants for parishes in our diocese to begin new ministries. Our contribution touches many people and is an important part of our parish's outreach to the world.

**Formation (15%/\$31,200).** Our parish provides opportunities for all parishioners to grow in their faith through educational activities. As Episcopal followers of Jesus, we believe that our faith should be grounded in scripture, tradition, and reason. There are regular opportunities for learning throughout the year. Recently, we studied The Gospel of Mark and shared a conversation about the Church's response to the climate crisis. Annual Inquirer classes prepare new members for Confirmation.

**Pastoral Care (10%/\$20,948).** As an expression of God's abundant love, our parish aims to care for those who are suffering, homebound, or in crisis. Our clergy and lay volunteers regularly visit those who are sick, in the hospital, or homebound. Beyond the budget, the rector's discretionary fund is used to assist those who are faced with significant needs or crises. In 2025, we will add a team of Lay Eucharistic Visitors to help those who are not able to gather with us to remain connected to their faith and our parish.

**Parish Life (6%/\$11,829).** We gather as a community for fellowship throughout the year. Parish meals throughout the year and coffee hour each week are examples of times when we celebrate our life together in our parish. Parishioners often generously furnish food from favorite recipes and other resources over and above the monies allocated in our budget to support these important activities that support and build our community. We also extend support to members of our community in times of sickness and grief with supportive gifts and meals.

**Stewardship (9%/\$17,425).** Our generation is charged with the care of our properties, our tradition, and our faith. Our stewardship of these resources requires careful planning, an engaged vestry, and able administrative and financial administration and record keeping. While our able staff of volunteers carry out the largest part of this work, providing and maintaining equipment and other resources is necessary to support this work.

## **Income**

The proposed budget is balanced. Our budget reflects the care we take with our resources. We are aiming for an income of \$204,000 to support the ministry of our parish next year. The majority of our income comes from the pledge you make to our parish (74%/\$150,000). Other revenue includes contributions to our visitor boxes, memorial gifts, and income from our investments.

## **An Invitation**

This budget is an invitation for you to celebrate all the wonderful ways our parish ministers in our community and beyond. We are doing wonderful things in our community with limited resources. That is worth celebrating! This budget is an invitation for you to consider how you might further respond to God's abundance as we pool our resources to support the work of God's Spirit in our world through the ministry of our parish.

