



St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

Our mission is to live as Christ's Heart and Hands in the World

Dear St. Francis Family,

We write you today as your officers of St. Francis and members of the Stewardship and Finance Committees. Working with these groups, Fr. Warren and the officers were asked to share our concerns with you regarding a problem. It is that which Fr. Warren (in his recent letter) shared regarding our projected deficit of \$189,000 and his concerns. While we are blessed to have such faith filled worship services, be surrounded by a beautiful, safe, functional, and comfortable 57-year-old parish to worship in and to have so many eager volunteers reaching out to those less fortunate than us ... we are also concerned.

We are asking that you prayerfully and generously join us in responding to Fr. Warren's and the Stewardship and Finance Committee's request to eliminate the deficit in our budget. And, as you know, it is that time of year again. We are working hard on our future budget and plans for 2024 (and 2025). In the past few years our expenses have exceeded our income and we have been spending money from our reserves. We are focused on solutions, because this is what we have, a deficit. The Coronavirus pandemic and the need to complete the deferred maintenance items did not help. So, as said, this is our state of reality. Not to be repeated, but corrected.

We assure you we have taken steps to decrease expenses. We have consolidated items, reworked costs and fees and reduced staffing hours. But it is not enough. As your Vestry Officers, we believe that we all need to reexamine our giving and work on reducing our budget deficit.

Soon you will be receiving our 'Stewardship Mailing' asking for next year's Annual Giving estimate. As your officers, we ask you to consider the needs of our Parish as you make your giving decisions. If we all pitch in, we can reduce our deficit.

We give thanks to all those who are giving, serving, volunteering, attending events, sending kids to camp, and doing all the things that go on in this church's life. With your help, it CAN BE DONE.

We are in advance, overflowing with appreciation and gratefulness to you all.
God bless you and Peace be with you.

Respectfully and Reverently - Your St. Francis Leadership Team:

Julie Reppenhagen, Sr. Warden –

Jim Ratley, Jr. Warden –

Gloria Cadwalader, Treasurer –

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