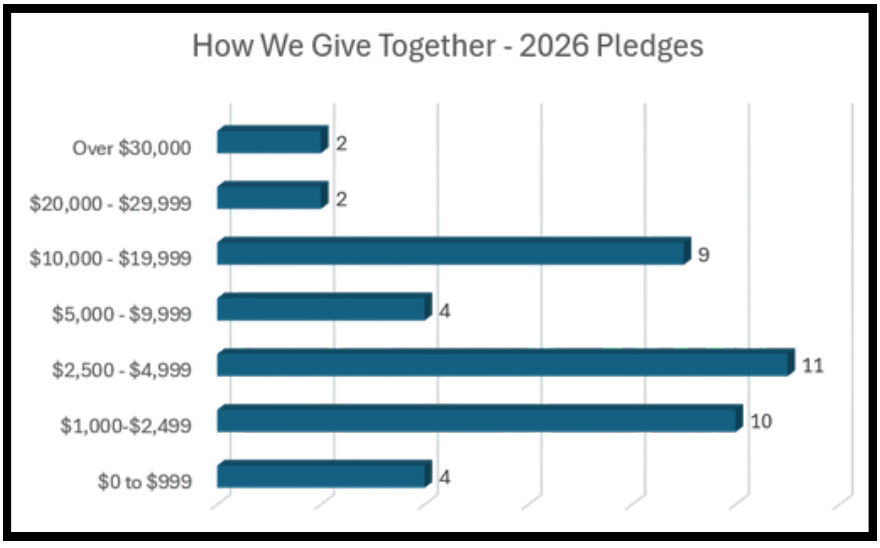
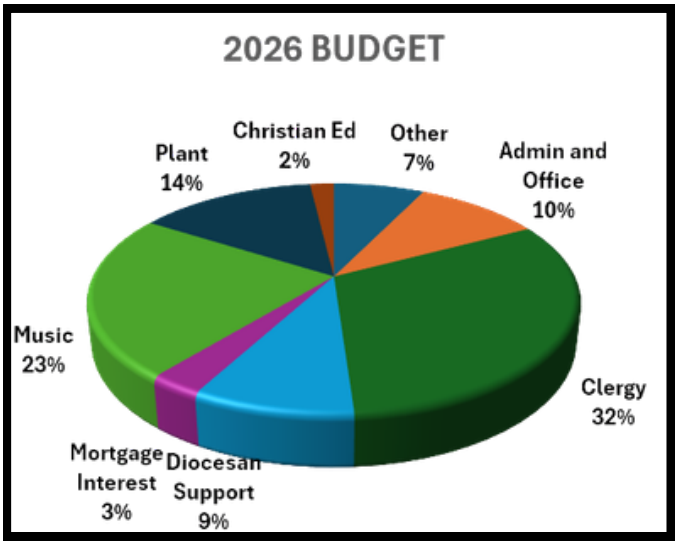


We are *Making All Things New Again* at St. Matthew's.
Stewardship is a form of renewal itself - we are bringing new life to our physical space, our clergy, our presence in community, newcomers, our personal spiritual practices, and how we give back to God all that He has given us. In the spirit of renewal, please consider significantly increasing your pledge in support of all things that
God and St. Matthew's are making new again.

"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new."
2 Corinthians 5:17





Choose from the following to make your pledge and pledge payment!

- Use the pledge form included in your mailer
- Email Brian Angerame at bmangerame@gmail.com
- Pledge electronically through the following link: www.stmatthewswilton.org/give/pledge/
- Make a gift of stock, securities or mutual funds, or donate through a donor-advised fund

Today, we embark on a season of reflection and on renewal. God and St. Matthew's are making things new again. The invitation we have before us is to think, hope, pray and give differently. It is an invitation to see our giving as participation in our, and God's, ongoing renewal: in our new rector, in our community, in our neighbors, and ourselves.

Stewardship is most often thought of in terms of need: how much does St. Matthew's need this year? What does St. Matthew's need from me? How much do we need to keep the lights on? Clearly we have needs. But instead ask, how much do we hope for St. Matthew's? How much do we pray for St. Matthew's? How much do we love St. Matthew's?

So, in this season of renewal and making things new again, the invitation is to think differently about stewardship. Instead of "how much do you need," challenge yourself to ask "how much can we give?" St. Matthew's parishioners form a very generous and loving community. As such, we all give to many different charities and causes. In the spirit of renewal, let's make a new and simple acknowledgement: everything we have is a gift from God. Our lives, abilities, friendships, strengths, time, and material resources all come from God. Scripture calls God's people to offer the "first fruits" of their labor, not simply whatever happens to remain, but a portion set aside first, before any other giving, in gratitude and trust. Can we renew our vow that we think about stewardship differently than an ordinary charitable giving?

**"Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase;
so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow."
Proverbs 3:9–10**

In the following months, Kerith and the vestry will share their vision for the year(s) ahead - the ministries we hope to grow, how we grow our presence in Wilton and the surrounding communities, and the new things God may be calling us to do. Stewardship is how we fund that vision, not just electricity and heating oil (although those are important needs that will be rising significantly this year, as you all know).

So, as you consider increasing your pledge this year, please do so with an energized spirit of renewal - we are ***Making All Things New Again!*** This is our opportunity to think, pray, hope and give differently. Your pledge is a tangible sign of trust that God continues to make all things, including St. Matthew's, *new again*.

**"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."
Isaiah 43: 18-19**

MAKING ALL THINGS
new again