

Addressing the Financial Shortfall:

At our Annual Meeting, the Vestry presented their desire to address an ongoing yearly financial shortfall by asking for each pledging household to make an additional pledge to overcome it. You will receive, if you have not already, a letter from Sr. Warden Jim Wiley, explaining this recurring situation and the request for everyone to help. This recurring deficit isn't new – what is new is a determination to try to overcome it, so our parish can move ahead with hope and confidence. Funding what it actually costs to run the church is doable. If each of our pledging households pledges an additional \$5.30/week (equal to \$275 for the year), the recurring shortfall will be gone (this year at \$51,460). There is no fat in the Holy Spirit budget. Simply put, cutting our spending to match our current annual income means deciding which staff positions should be reduced.

We understand that making an additional pledge is not possible for everyone; others may be able to do more than requested. The Vestry hopes you will join them in taking up this critical challenge to support the church that brings so much to us. Our stewardship effort was very good: pledging households increase of 10; increases in pledge amounts from regular pledgers, and in the number of new people who are choosing to make Holy Spirit their church home. It's time to address the recurring shortfall without dipping annually into Vestry Reserves, funds which are there as a safety net and limited seed money for new ministries.

Together, with God's help, we can do this. Please fill out a pledge card for the additional amount you can give toward reducing the shortfall, a gift beyond your 2019 pledge, by February 28th. Additional information is in the letter from Jim, at www.holyspiritmissoula.org, and with your Vestry.

Thank you!
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