

[**Click HERE to Pledge 2027**](#)

Annual Giving 2027

As we begin our annual stewardship campaign, I want to pause and give thanks for all that God has accomplished in and through our parish during this season of transition. Interim periods invite us to reflect on where God has been leading us and “with grace and courage to imagine new directions and ways of being.” Throughout this time, I have witnessed a parish deeply committed to living the Gospel with faith, hope, and love.

As Episcopalians, we promise in our Baptismal Covenant to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself.” That promise is lived out in our glorious worship, our life enhancing outreach as well as in our faithful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us.

Stewardship is an opportunity to respond to God’s abundant grace with grateful hearts. This is a spiritual practice of thanksgiving, recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God and asking how we are called to use those gifts for God’s mission.

I invite you to prayerfully consider and reflect on the ways God has blessed you. How has Bruton Parish shaped your faith, and how may God be calling you to support the ministries we share together? As you reflect upon the ways Bruton is growing, I encourage you to consider whether you are able to increase your commitment this year as an expression of gratitude for God’s abundant gifts.

The ministries we cherish-our worship, Christian formation, pastoral care, outreach to our neighbors, music, our children and youth, and our ministry of welcome and hospitality- are possible because of the faithful generosity of this parish. As we look toward the future, we are intentionally responding to your concerns expressed in the parish survey. Following these dreams, we hope not simply to maintain what we have, but to strengthen and expand the ways we proclaim the Gospel and serve our community. Every increase in giving, no matter the size, helps make that possible and equips the work Jesus calls forth through this parish.

I am profoundly grateful for the faithfulness, resilience, and generosity I have witnessed throughout this interim season. As a result of your commitment, we are well positioned to embrace the next chapter of our common life with confidence and hope. I believe God is continuing to call us to be a parish known for joyful worship, generous hospitality, compassionate service and faithful discipleship.

Thank you for your prayers, your partnership in ministry and your generous hearts. May God continue to bless this parish as we seek to follow Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and strengthened by one another.

The Rev. William J. Watson III, Interim Rector

From Bruton's Search Committee Prayer, "As we look to the future, grant us the grace and courage to imagine new directions and ways of being." So, let's take a closer look at the new directions taken this year.

Celebrating Our Shared Ministry - Stories of Faith in Action

- ‰ Nine parishioners prepared 16 dozen cookies every Monday for ten weeks for the Summer Meals for Kids program. This program helps feed lunch to 285 students during the summer months when school is out of session. Many parishioners donated financial assistance as well.
- ‰ In one of the many feeding ministries in which Bruton participates, Bruton parishioners have prepped and delivered over 910 meals in 2026 to families living in area motels.
- ‰ A successful youth mission trip with 19 youth and 4 chaperones doing community work in Asheville, North Carolina.
- ‰ A weekly lectionary study with Rev. Steve Woolley has brought parishioners together for faithful discussion, reflection, and spiritual growth.
- ‰ The wonderful addition of Rev. Cindy Stravers who has nurtured us with her gifts in Lauren's absence and will continue to be a vital part of our clergy team.
- ‰ The blessing of 62 newcomers to our parish family and the joy that they have brought with their presence and involvement and who were welcomed at two receptions at the rectory.
- ‰ The graciousness of our Guide Ministry as "keepers of the shrine," who continue to welcome visitors and pilgrims from around our country and world.
- ‰ We were glad to host our neighbors for the Winter Shelter. Forty (40) individuals stayed with us and 197 parishioners opened their hearts and welcomed our guests during that week.
- ‰ Clergy had luncheons with parishioners at The Landing and Windsor Meade.
- ‰ Retired clergy coffee and conversation at the rectory.
- ‰ The Bruton Cares ministry and their work staying connected to members of our parish family.
- ‰ The diligent work of our Search Committee as they prayerfully discern and seek our next Rector.
- ‰ Another successful year for our Canterbury Ministry, including their pilgrimage to Canterbury, England and the Spring Gala, among other activities
- ‰ In June, 18 parishioners went on pilgrimage to various cathedrals and churches in England including Canterbury, Coventry, Guilford, Salisbury and York Cathedrals.
- ‰ Through the generosity of our shoppers and the dedication of our volunteers, the Bruton Shop had another successful year of raising funds for mission and outreach.



- ‰ Bruton parishioners enjoyed fellowship at several parish-wide events as well as socials hosted in (private) homes.
- ‰ The Bruton Fount magazine will complete its first full year of issues and the positive feedback from parishioners and those who support Bruton from afar has been affirming and appreciated.

Caring for and Stewarding our Sacred Spaces- Projects and Improvements

- ‰ Construction and dedication of Meghan's Play Yard
- ‰ Repositioning the font to its central place in the transept crossing
- ‰ St Mary's Chapel HVAC replaced
- ‰ New rectory fence installed



- ‰ Refresh and cleanup of the Tower space
- ‰ Modern hearing assistance in the church
- ‰ Additional camera in the church to better view the service for those who watch remotely
- ‰ Addition of a water cooler in the Tower of the church to offer respite to parishioners and visitors alike
- ‰ With a focus on hospitality, refresh of the Parish House reception area
- ‰ Created the new position of Hospitality Coordinator to extend Christ's welcome to all who enter our Parish House doors by greeting visitors, assisting parishioners and serving as a gracious first point of contact.
- ‰ Modern Parish Hall audio equipment
- ‰ Completion of the Zoom room in Coffee, Tea and Thee to allow video conferencing capabilities and modern meeting facilities.

Continuing Our Stewardship – Looking Ahead

- ‰ The calling of our new Rector
- ‰ Expanded Christian Education and Formation small group opportunities
- ‰ More opportunities for fellowship and being together
- ‰ Enhanced access to our churchyard by opening the space to parishioners and visitors and providing additional information to enrich understanding of its history and significance
- ‰ A comprehensive redesign of the church's website is underway to create a more welcoming, inviting, accessible and informative online presence for our parish and the greater community.
- ‰ Opening an Art Gallery in Parish House Offices front hall
- ‰ Improving the audio/visual capabilities and space in the church
- ‰ Parish House improvements to include new windows, and other (safety) and maintenance needs.

Our life together at Bruton Parish is made possible by the generosity of our parish family. Through our gifts, we support the worship, ministries, fellowship, and outreach that bring our faith to life and allow us to serve in God's name.

A pledge is more than a financial commitment. It is one way we express our gratitude for all that Bruton Parish means to us and help strengthen the ministries that we share. Every gift helps Bruton Parish continue to be a place of welcome, worship, compassion and service -- within our parish and throughout the wider community.

We invite you to prayerfully consider your commitment for the coming year. Please make your pledge through Realm, on our website, or by returning the enclosed pledge card by November 15, our Pledge Ingathering Sunday. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and for all you make possible at Bruton Parish.

Ways of Pledging & Giving

Pledging & Giving via Your Realm Account

Using your Realm account is a simple way to make and pay your pledge for 2027. If you choose to use this method, go to your Realm Connect app, tap the Giving button at the bottom of the screen, and choose Pledge on the top of the screen. The next page will allow you to choose the Annual Fund Pledge button.

Pledging & Giving via the Bruton Parish Website You may also use the website at www.brutonparish.org to make your pledge and give. It allows for the use of a credit card, debit card, or secure electronic transfer (ACH). It also offers a recurring gift option, on the schedule of your choice. You may opt to cover the additional processing fee at the time of transaction. Texting Bruton at 73256 is also a way to give.

Pledging & Giving by Check or Cash

By mail or in the offering plate. Offering envelopes are not required. Cash may be placed in a plain envelope. Write your name on the front and we will apply the amount toward your pledge.

Gifts of Stock

Donate appreciated securities or mutual funds held longer than one year and receive a tax deduction without paying capital gains tax. When initiating a stock transfer, please contact Margaret Driscoll in the Development Office at (757) 345-2256 or mdriscoll@brutonparish.org. Occasionally, we receive stock gifts with no donor identification, so to avoid this, it's helpful for the church office to know a stock gift has been put into

process. Provide your broker the following for Bruton's Fidelity Investments brokerage account:

Account Name: Bruton Parish Episcopal Church
Fidelity Investments DTC #0226
Brokerage Account #X90-766745
Your Name (required for proper credit)

When you initiate a stock transfer, please contact Margaret Driscoll, who will watch for the shares and sell them promptly.

Gifts from an IRA

Those 70.5 years or better may make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from an IRA. Qualified charitable deductions are not included in income, so for those who take the standard deduction, there is a significant tax benefit. Provide your IRA custodian this information for sending a check:

Bruton Parish Church
P.O. Box 3520,
Williamsburg, VA 23187-3520
Attn: Finance Office
EIN # 54-0519571,
and your name.



(The information above is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor.)

Statements are sent periodically during the year and you may request one at any time. If you choose to pre-pay in the fourth quarter of 2026, please indicate that this is your intent when making the gift.

Contribution statements are sent quarterly during the year and you may request one at any time. Your giving is also available to you to review through your Realm account.

For further information, to discuss your preferences for fulfilling a pledge, or to request a personal visit, contact Development Director Margaret Driscoll at (757) 345-2256 or email mdriscoll@brutonparish.org.

Vestry Members

Taylor Banks, Carlyle Campbell, Robyn Hansen,
Kathy Harper, Randy Hobbs, Ron Hurst, Anna Martin,
John Morgan, Sue Saunders, Lori Forcucci,
Michael Smith, Larry Zensinger

Members of the Clergy

The Rev'd William J. Watson III – Interim Rector

The Rev'd Charles H. Bauer, Associate Rector
Christian Formation & College Ministries

The Rev'd Lauren M. McDonald, Associate Rector
Outreach Women's Ministries & Pastoral Care

The Rev'd Cynthia Stravers, Assisting Clergy
Pastoral Care & Children's and Youth Ministries

Key Dates

October 11 - Annual Giving 2027 Begins

November 1 - All Saints' Sunday

November 15 - Pledge Ingathering & Coffee Hour

November 22 - Annual Parish Meeting at 10:30 a.m.

2027 Proposed Operating Budget

	2027		2026		Difference	In addition to welcoming a new rector in 2027, we plan to increase clergy resources from 2.5 fulltime equivalents budgeted in 2026 to 4 full time equivalents in 2027.
	in 000's	%	in 000's	%	in 000's	
Operating Revenue						
Annual Giving	\$ 1533	62%	\$ 1400	66%	\$133	The resources devoted to Youth in 2027 will be about the same with Meghan plus 50% of one member of the clergy. Cindy will be taking that role in order for Charlie to be devoted to Canterbury and Formation as well as his regular pastoral care and worship duties. As a result, the cost allocated to Youth will decline.
Tower, Concerts, Plate	\$ 136	5%	\$ 134	6%	\$ 2	
Endowment & Foundation	\$ 746	30%	\$ 535	25%	\$211	
Other	<u>\$ 77</u>	3%	<u>\$ 64</u>	3%	<u>\$ 13</u>	
Total Operating Revenue	<u>\$2491</u>		<u>\$2133</u>		<u>\$358</u>	
Operating Expenses						
Program Expenses						
Worship, Pastoral Care, Formation	\$ 542	22%	\$ 329	15%	\$213	
Canterbury	\$ 119	5%	\$ 101	5%	\$ 18	
Youth	\$ 166	7%	\$ 196	9%	-\$ 4	
Music	\$ 350	14%	\$ 331	16%	\$ 20	
Mission & Outreach	\$ 20	1%	\$ 20	1%	\$ 0	
Fellowship	\$ 19	1%	\$ 18	1%	\$ 1	
Other Program Expenses	<u>\$ 12</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>\$ 12</u>	
Total Program Expenses	<u>\$1229</u>	<u>49%</u>	<u>\$996</u>	<u>47%</u>	<u>\$233</u>	
Supporting Expenses						
Administration & Finance	\$ 425	17%	\$ 354	17%	\$ 71	
Maintenance	\$ 372	15%	\$ 376	18%	-\$ 3	
Utilities	\$ 108	4%	\$ 74	3%	\$ 34	
Insurance	\$ 98	4%	\$ 95	4%	\$ 3	
Diocesan Support	\$ 148	6%	\$ 148	7%	\$ 0	
Development	\$ 66	3%	\$ 52	2%	\$ 14	
Other	\$ 45	2%	\$ 39	2%	\$ 6	
Total Supporting Expenses	<u>\$1262</u>	<u>51%</u>	<u>\$ 1137</u>	<u>53%</u>	<u>\$ 125</u>	
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$2491</u>		<u>\$2133</u>		<u>\$ 358</u>	