

Connecting In

***My Community,
My Family of Choice,
My St. Stephen's (the website)***

St. Stephen's is a very special place. For over 80 years it has always been a welcoming parish, fully embracing diversity and not just tolerating it. We come here and support this place because it enables us to connect with God, with ourselves, with others, and with the world around us. This year we ask everyone to ***connect in*** to participate in some of the multitude of ways we build our relationships with one another and with God such as:

- Saturday Morning Rosary Service
- The Presence Group
- Wednesday Night Bible Study
- Foyers Dinner Groups
- Chapel at the Day School
- Teaching Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Sunday School)
- 8:30 or 10:30 Sunday Service
- Adult Forum Sunday School
- Serving on one of several other committees and/or the Vestry
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors
- Liturgical Ministries (Greeters, Readers, Ushers, Linen/Altar/Flower Guilds, Chalice Bearers, Acolytes/Crucifers, Children's Chapel)
- Choirs and sharing musical talents
- Praying for others and Prayer Requests
- Pastoral Care
- Keeping your contact information current at My St. Stephen's website and placing your and your family's pictures in our online directory

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***Welcoming Others,
Reaching Out in Compassion,
Serving Locally, Regionally, Globally***

St. Stephen's has been the founding congregation for two, new parishes in its history. We are known as the "living room" of the Montrose community and have always been there to assist and comfort our neighbors in need. Our outreach is as diverse as our members. In 2011, we wish to ***connect out*** virtually through the web while continuing to serve others and God with our time, talents, and resources. A few of the opportunities for you are:

- Lord of the Streets – food program for homeless
- Havens Center – after school program and community center
- Christian Community Service Center – multitude of services
- Interfaith Ministries – interfaith dialogue + Meals on Wheels
- Senior's Place – day care center for seniors
- Neartown Little League
- Integrity – GLBT Episcopalians for full inclusion
- Seafarer's Center – Christmas time gift boxes for sailors
- The Metropolitan Organization – church-led community advocacy
- Honduras Mission Trip – a direct sharing of talent, time, resources
- Houston Interfaith Worker Justice Center – supports workers' employment rights
- St. Stephen's presence and witness using Facebook, Blogs, Twitters – our virtual welcoming to our greater community and to ourselves
- St. Stephen's Episcopal School Houston – 18 months thru 18 years
- Sharing our stories with others in need at our work, play, and schools.
- Sermons Online – audio iTunes Podcasts of sermons



Stewardship Campaign St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Houston

Observations About the 2011 Preliminary Draft Budget

The Vestry has set a pledge goal of \$550,000 (1.) for 2011, which is a 7.2% increase over our 2010-pledged income of \$513,000. Because of the sharing of staff and facilities, the day school contributes to our Other Income revenue (3.) along with fees paid by community groups using Pecore Hall. The endowment continues to contribute \$36,000 a year (4.).

In 2011, we will have our full complement of staff and clergy and so associated expenses (5. & 6.) are higher than in 2010 when most positions were vacant for at least part of the year. These costs make up 56% of our expenses. Ministries and Outreach (7.) total 9% of our expense budget and support activities listed on the front of this sheet. Operating Expenses (8.) are budgeted 7.1% lower than last year because of costs savings and reduction of energy use with the installation of more efficient A/C units and conservation. Church Governance (9.) is our share of the operational costs for the Diocese of Texas and health insurance for its clergy. We continue to pay down our long-term debt (10.). It is estimated the amount owed will be approximately \$173,000 at the end of the year. Each year the vestry sets aside a portion of the pledged income as a reserve for uncollected pledges (11.). That amount in 2011 is \$22,000.

The Havens Center's budget is not included in this, the church's budget. The Vestry approves both budgets in December. They are then distributed at the annual parish meeting in January.

Respectfully,

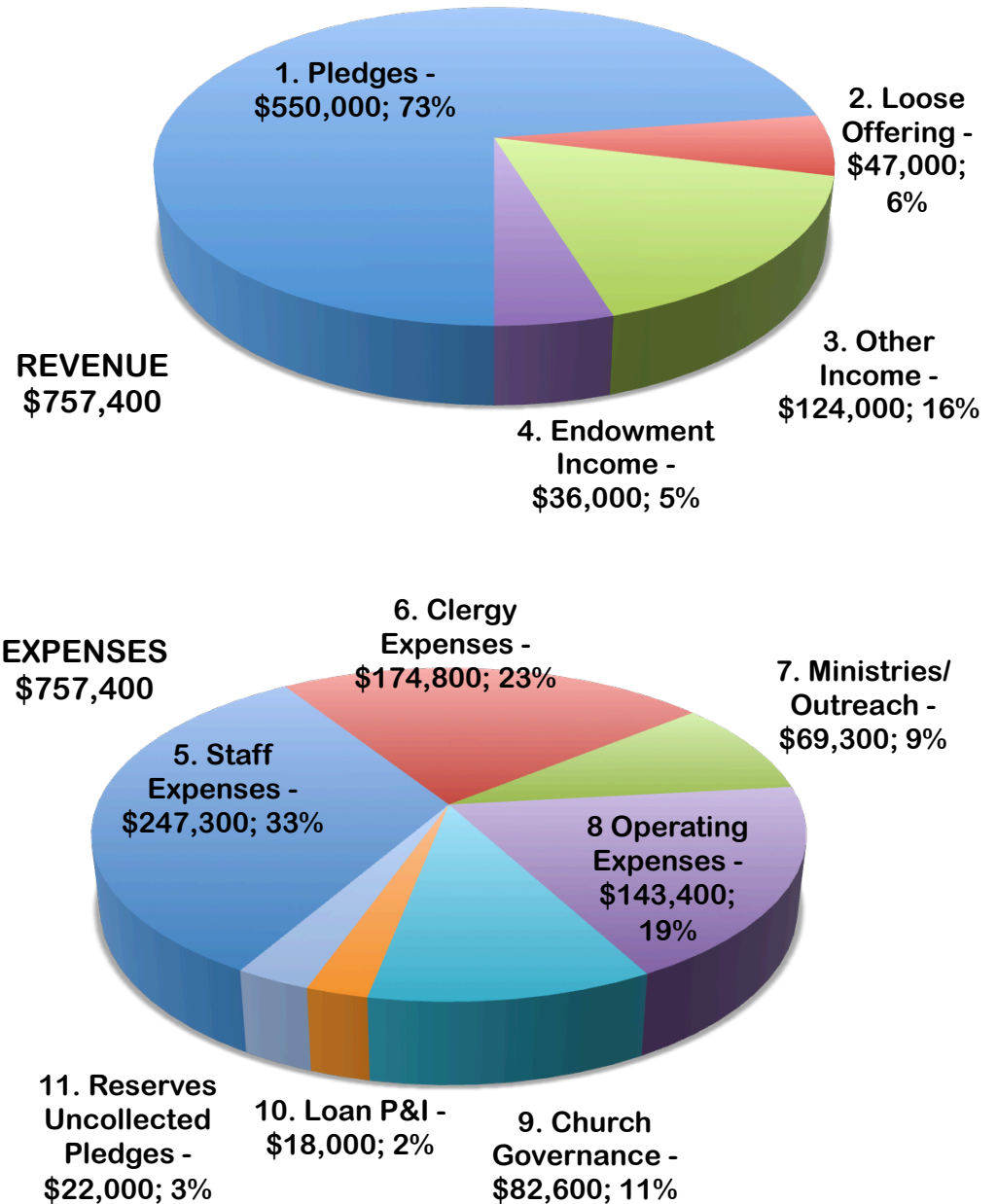
John M. Cornwell
John M. Cornwell
Treasurer & Stewardship Chair

Connecting In - Connecting Out



SSECH 2011 Preliminary Draft Budget *

*Our 2011 pledge goal is \$550,000,
an increase of 7.2% over this year's \$513,000.*



* Note: The Vestry approves the final 2011 budget in December.