



Behold, I am doing a new thing

— Isaiah 43:19

Annual Giving 2022

A discussion about a Narrative Budget

What does your budget say about your church? Is the ministry you accomplish the first thing people see? Or is it how much you pay your minister and staff? Is the ways your building is used for mission and ministry the first thing people see? Or is it how much it costs to maintain and use your space?

How your budget is organized is one way to share those things that matter to you and those things on which you spend the money you receive from your parishioners. Another way is to take all your administrative items (salaries, benefits, utilities) and determine how much time your staff are working on, or how much your building is in use for, your mission and ministry; how much time your volunteers give and how your money supports the work they do. **This is what narrating your budget is about – telling your story.**

In some churches, the congregations are small but, due to the age of the parish, there may be endowed monies that are used to great effect in the community around them. These stories need to be shared. Your parish may have an amazing food pantry or do dinner for the local homeless population on a regular basis. That information should be shared – not just with the people who attend your church but with the people in your area who may be looking to get involved and don't know who to ask.

Your parish may have an amazing youth program – a garden that provides fresh produce for the local food bank – a music ministry that does concerts that are open to the public – a large space that can be used for meetings. Your parish may work with other local congregations (not necessarily Episcopalian, or even Christian) to provide mission that can be better done by a larger group. These things need to be shared, often and widely.

Please join us in our parish workshops for annual giving and learn more about how a narrative budget can open the eyes of your congregation to the work and worship their wealth supports. If you are unable to attend one of our two Zoom workshops, the Power Point presentation will be on the stewardship resource [webpage](#). And you can always get in touch with Helen Spence at stewardship@delaware.church to ask questions.