

HIGHER GROUND CAMPAIGN

"And Jesus went up to a high place and called those whom he wanted and they came to join him." - Mark 3:13



Please prayerfully consider donating to the Higher Ground Campaign and the 2017 Stewardship Campaign.

*We're pressing on the upward way,
New heights we're gaining every day;
Still praying as we onward bound,
Lord, plant our feet on higher ground.*

*Lord, lift us up, and let us stand
By faith on Canaan's tableland;
A higher plane than we have found,
Lord, plant our feet on higher ground.*

With gratitude and grace we stand at an important place in the history of Christ Church Covington. As we anticipate our 175th anniversary, we have an opportunity to reach deeper into the heart of our faith and to reach higher as we fully embrace God's call to us. The 175th Anniversary Campaign will empower us to become good stewards of the beautiful campus God has entrusted to us, by making long-needed repairs and renovations to our facilities, and enhancing these buildings to prepare for a new generation of disciples. We will also build a foundation for the future by expanding our ministry in all phases of the life of our church. And we will make a real difference in the world, not only locally but globally as we support outreach and mission, from Covington to Cuba.

*In Christ,
Father Bill Miller*

PURPOSE

of the 2017 Stewardship Campaign

In addition to your gift to the 175th Anniversary Higher Ground Campaign, your continued financial support of our annual operating budget is critical. Our Church requires \$1 million a year for day-to-day operations and ministries. Utilities, supplies, technology, phones, mailings, worship service costs, salaries and more are all funded through your generous giving. Our 2017 Stewardship Campaign ensures the success of each of the following ministry priorities:

Children and Youth

We want to raise up a new generation of disciples and leaders by providing the most creative and comprehensive youth and children's ministry programs in the Episcopal Church. We want to support our excellent Godly Play ministry and involve and train our kids to be worship leaders.

Outreach

We encourage congregation members to get involved with time, talent, and treasure for ministries such as CEEP, Habitat for Humanity, Youth Mission Trips, Adult Mission Trip to Cuba, Covington Food Bank, Tom Turkey, 3rd Sunday Concerts, the Annual Auction, Jazz in January, the Animal Blessing, Episcopal Relief and Development and other initiatives.

Evangelism

By proclaiming the gospel of forgiveness, reconciliation, and acceptance to all people, we can bring people to God and bring God's people together. From well-organized events such as the Third Sunday Concert series and Jazz in January to other special offerings, we are able to better connect with our friends and neighbors in the community. Our Communications Task Force seeks to enhance publications, social media, and digital technology to communicate the good news of Christ.

Christian Formation

All ages learn, love and live more fully into our calling as God's people through strong Christian formation. We seek to make disciples, from the youngest child to the wisest senior. From a yearly Discovery Class for those seeking to learn more about the Christian faith and the Episcopal Church, to growing Men's and Women's Study Groups, to expanding Wednesday Evening, Sunday Morning, and seasonal and need based formation, we want to grow opportunities. We also want to bring engaging outside speakers to our Church to help expand our hearts, minds and souls. Even Christian Formation has costs. Please give to the 2017 Stewardship Campaign to support formation classes.

Worship

Honoring God is central to our worship services, so we offer four distinct worship services that speak powerfully to people of every age and background. From seekers who are looking for new life to long-time members who are growing their faith, we are called upon to invest the necessary resources to create worship experiences which will strengthen and nurture our relationship with God.

MISSION

of the 175th Anniversary Campaign

To raise the funds necessary for the immediate renovation and long-term enhancement of our historic campus, build a foundation for growth by supporting ministry and mission, and to increase our witness by reaching out locally and globally.



To accomplish our mission, the campaign we envision is broad and transformative. We are focusing on three priorities as follows:

- 1 Maintaining Our Buildings:** God has given us a beautiful location in the heart of historic Covington, near the banks of the Bogue Falaya River. However, our buildings in recent years have fallen into a state of major disrepair. We desire to be good stewards of this campus entrusted to us by God.
- 2 Growing Our Ministries:** We seek to build a foundation for growth by supporting mission and ministry at Christ Church. Recently we have begun to experience extraordinary growth because of new ministry initiatives. We want to support and expand these.
- 3 Engaging In Mission:** This component will support our primary outreach ministries, CEEP and Habitat for Humanity, while adding a partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Cuba, helping them fund the first phase of Camp Blankingship.



"Then I said to them, Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be ashamed. I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me. They replied, 'Let us start rebuilding.' So they began this good work." – Nehemiah 2: 17-18

KEY TRANSFORMATIONS

Maintaining Our Buildings

- **We will** completely renovate and restore St. Cecilia House, a historic building from the 1880s. We will upgrade this potentially beautiful building and maintain its multi-purpose usage by groups including our choir, twelve step groups, vestry, staff, committees and formation groups.
- **We will** spruce up our Administration Building with painting, furnishings, landscaping and an urgently needed telephone system.
 - **We will** invest in our church itself! The balcony will receive new flooring, repaired roof to prevent leaks, and tiered seating. We will improve lighting and sound in the church making it easier for all to hear and see during worship and concerts. And we will repair our organ so it can continue to fill our Church with its glorious sounds for generations to come.
 - In Holzhab Hall, **we will** fix and paint the exterior, and we will upgrade our kitchen.
 - In the historic chapel, **we will** repair leaks and the siding, add insulation and paint the exterior.
 - **We will** add lightening protection throughout our campus and improve the energy efficiency of every building.
- **We will** add 35 parking spaces by utilizing lots we already possess but have not improved.
- **We will** repair the flood damage to our HVAC system.
- **We will** invest in technology by upgrading our computers, adding internet accessibility, drop screens and projectors for education purposes, and improve our website.
- **We will** make repairs and improvements to the West School Building.
- **We will** renovate the Youth Center, recognizing how vital our young people are, not only to our present, but also our future. We will add lighting to our playground to make it safer for our children.
- Together, **we will** work to develop a master site plan for our property.
- And to ensure these renovation projects are done in a timely and excellent manner, **we will** hire an experienced project manager to oversee the projects.



*“I want to scale
the utmost height
And catch a gleam
of glory bright;
But still I’ll pray till
rest I’ve found,
‘Lord, lead me on
to higher ground.’”*

– Hymn
Higher Ground

Growing Our Ministries

- In 2016, Morgan MacIntire joined us as our third priest. However, we have not fully funded her position. Her pastoral care ministry, teaching, and preaching are critically important to our church, and **we will** secure the resources needed to cover her salary and benefits in 2017.
- Our worship services have inspired all of us recently with outstanding music. **We will** commit to continuing an excellent musical tradition at Christ Church by fully supporting our choir and major feast day services with section leaders and guest artists. We also want to continue to have music at all four services on Sunday, offering a diversity of worship opportunities for a variety of seekers. We have already seen newcomers join us and some long-time former members find their way back to us. We live in one of the most musically oriented places in the world. We want our church to continue to value and support music as a primary way to draw us closer to God. Through music, we are able to offer our finest praise and communicate the love of God with beauty.
- We believe that ministry to children and youth is absolutely vital. We are blessed to have a new Youth Minister, Blake Burns, who is already doing an outstanding job. The Christ Church Youth Ministry was at its peak several years ago when we had both a male and a female youth minister. **We will** hire a female ministry partner to help lead our youth group, so that we can ensure a premiere youth program.



Engaging in Mission

- **We will** allocate funds to ensure our ability to reach beyond ourselves, because mission is an important part of our life as a faith community.
- Locally, **we will** provide seed money over the next three years to continue to offer our excellent summer academic enrichment program for at-risk youth (CEEP), and to support Habitat for Humanity in their efforts to provide long-term housing solutions for those in need.
- Globally, **we will** initiate a mission partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Cuba. We plan to help fund Phase One of Camp Blankingship, a long-held dream for the Diocese that would minister to children, youth, families, and adults of all ages.

Expanding Our Endowment

For a church of our size and our age, we should have a significant Endowment Fund to help care for our campus needs in perpetuity. Through the campaign you will have two ways to enhance our Endowment Fund. First, all funds pledged and given in excess of our \$1.75 million dollar goal will be directed toward the Christ Church Endowment Fund. Second, now is the time to become a member of the Christ Church Legacy Society. To join, simply indicate that you will leave a gift for Christ Church in your will. The gift can be in any form (cash, stocks, property, life insurance) and can be for any amount.

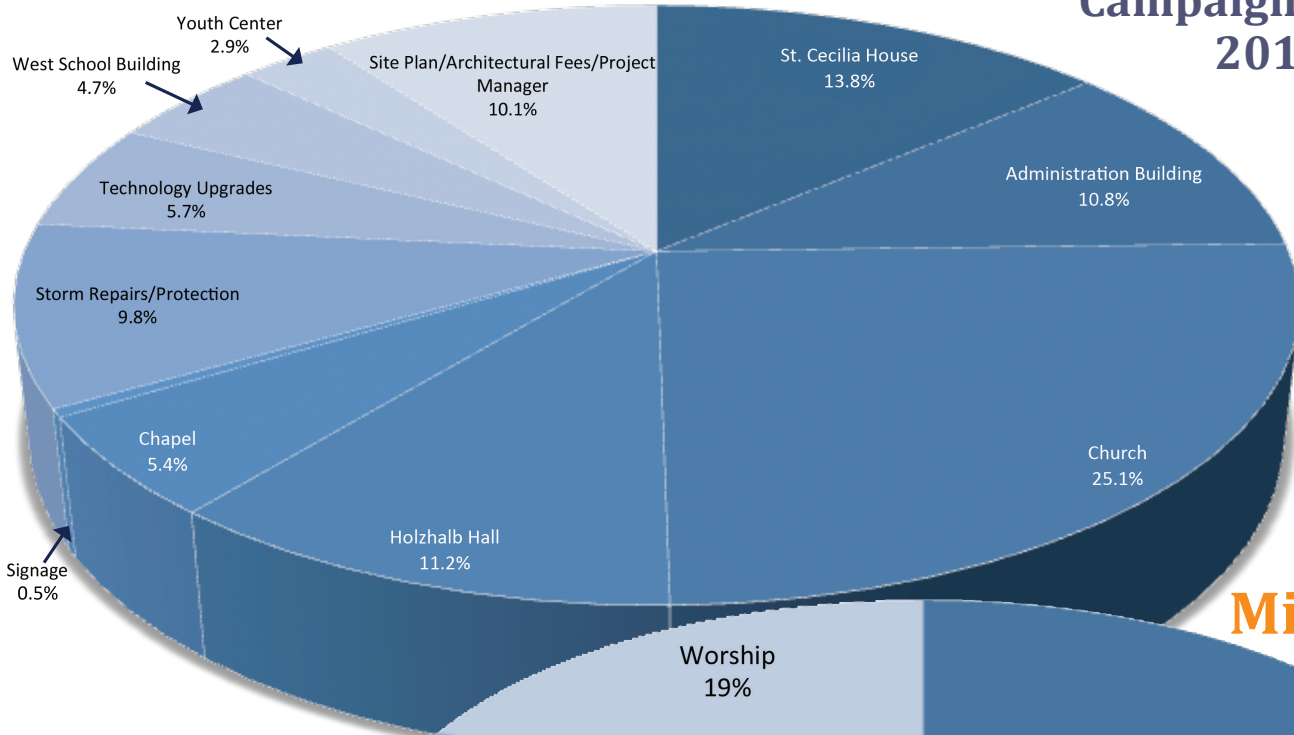
“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above.” – Colossians 3:1a

175th Anniversary Higher Ground Campaign

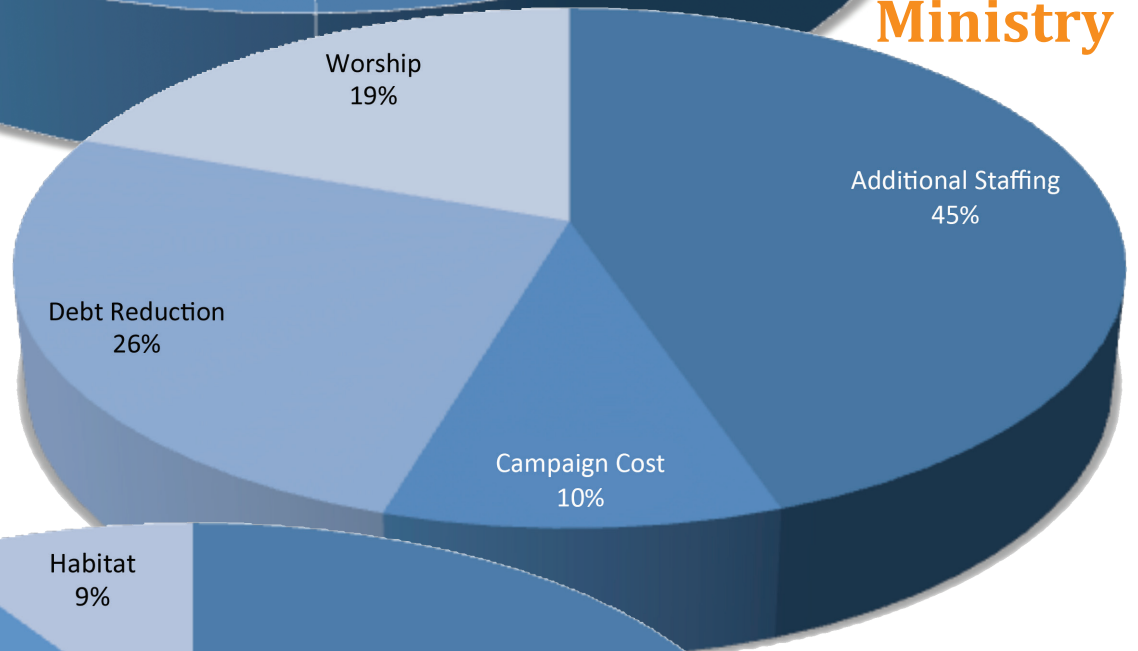
Goal: \$1.75 Million

Campaign Period:
2017- 2019

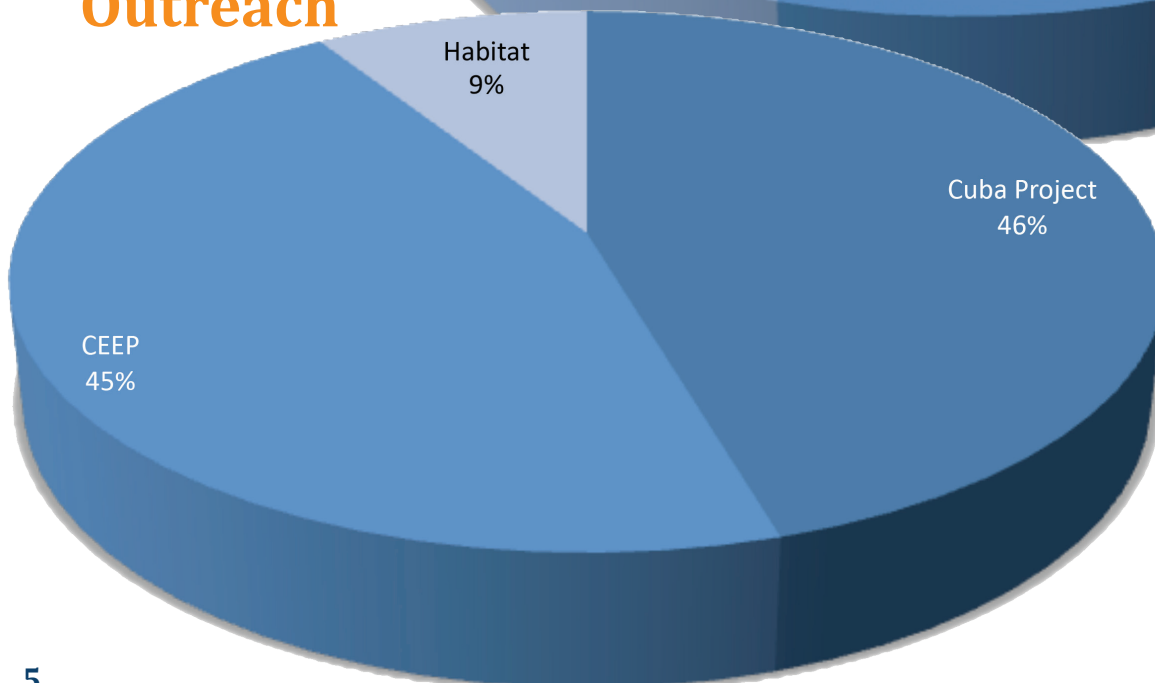
Maintenance



Ministry



Outreach



“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all people.”

– The Great Commission

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *How long do I have to complete my pledge to the campaign?*

A: The campaign runs for three years, starting January 1st, 2017 and ending December 31, 2019. Some will give a large gift up front, but others will make monthly payments for three years. Remember that direct deposit is also a good option. The more you give initially, the faster we can complete the work of the campaign.

Q: *Are we encouraged to make our regular yearly pledge as well?*

A: Yes! Remember that our 2017 Stewardship Campaign is absolutely essential to the ongoing ministries of our church. As we have grown and expanded our ministries, our goal for our 2017 Stewardship Campaign has been increased to \$1 million dollars. That is the amount we need to maintain our current level of ministry. Make your yearly pledge first, and strive to tithe, growing in your giving.

Q: *How did we arrive at the \$1.75 million figure for our goal?*

A: In addition to tying in beautifully with our 175th Anniversary (1.75) the figure was the result of discernment, dialogue and prayer by our projects committee, in consultation with campaign leaders, vestry, staff, and ministry heads. This figure will allow us to complete all of the deferred maintenance for the last decade, plus provide seed money to support valuable ministries over three years that are helping grow our congregation. Additionally, for such campaigns, a congregation can expect to raise approximately 2x or even 3x its annual pledges. Our annual pledges total close to \$800,000 so this \$1.75 goal, with generous participation by all our members and friends, is certainly attainable for us.

Q: *How often do churches typically have such campaigns?*

A: For some quickly growing congregations, such campaigns become a way of life, and part of their ongoing stewardship. They will address present needs and address future possibilities every 3-5 years. It has been 12 years since Christ Church had a major campaign. During that campaign we raised the funds necessary for our Administration Building, started a vibrant ministry to youth, and increased our Outreach. The time is long-overdue for us to have a campaign.

Q: *Can I direct my gift to one specific aspect of the campaign?*

A: Yes. However, our hope is that most who pledge will give to the entire campaign. All of these components are worthy and important, and our leaders believe this balanced approach will make a big difference in our ability to minister. So we envision that such designated giving, while it will be respected, will be rare.

Q: *How can I best support my church and the 175th Anniversary Campaign?*

A: We're glad you asked. First, pray for our congregation, our vestry and staff, our ministries, and our Campaign Leaders. Second, volunteer joyfully if you are asked to participate in a specific aspect of the campaign. Third, make a generous yearly pledge, even increasing your giving and striving to tithe (to give 10% back of what God has blessed you with.). Fourth, make a generous 3-year pledge to the campaign. Often the campaign gift will come from a different source than your yearly pledge. It may come from savings, stocks, property, an inheritance or other "back pocket" sources as opposed to the "front pocket" sources (monthly paycheck, etc) for your yearly pledge.

Please prayerfully consider donating to the Higher Ground Campaign and the 2017 Stewardship Campaign.

For more information or to discuss your gift, please call 985-892-3177 or email fatherbill@christchurchcovington.com



120 S. NEW HAMPSHIRE STREET
COVINGTON, LA 70433
985.892.3177

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOVINGTON.COM