



ROOTED *in Faith* GROWING *Community*

Campaign Newsletter 1

November 12, 2025

Campaign Key Facts

Pave the Way

Capital Campaign

Campaign Goal

\$2.5 - \$3 million

Purpose:

Infrastructure Capital Expenses

Giving With Gratitude

Annual Stewardship Campaign

Campaign Goal

\$1.2 million

Purpose:

Annual Operating Budget

Key Dates

November 9th – 30th

Inspirational Sundays

Thanksgiving Week

Giving With Gratitude &
Pave the Way Commitment Cards
Delivered to Your Mailbox

Week of December 1 – 7th

December 7th

Bring Completed Commitment
Cards to Church
[Or drop off at office or by mail.]

December 7th

Commitment & Celebration Sunday
One Service at 10 a.m.
Baptisms and Confirmations
Bring Your Commitment Cards
Blessing of Commitment Cards
Bishop's Visit
Celebration Luncheon after church

A Message from Father Seth

Great job to the 35 members of the campaign Contact Team, led by Rosalind Rhodes and Carolyn Carpenter. Their phone calls helped ensure a great turnout for our four Informational Sessions — over 200 people attended the hour-long presentation! A special thanks to our experts and speakers: Carolyn Parmenter, Randy Turner, Lisa Condrey Ward, and Bert Duvic. The video filmed and produced by Andrew Boyd beautifully tells the story of where we are today and what the Pave the Way campaign means to our future — thank you Andrew for volunteering your expertise for this project. I encourage everyone to go to our website and view the video.

On Sunday, November 9th, we officially launched our Pave the Way Capital Campaign as well as our Giving With Gratitude Annual Stewardship Campaign. What a great Sunday! Father Guimond and members of the Youth Group explained their prayer-bead project, and Prayer Leaders Dianne Allen-Pierce and Penny Bankston distributed prayer stones, encouraging everyone to pray and read the scripture of John the Baptist in Matthew 3:3.

As we go through this stewardship season, I give thanks for the many ways each of you bless this church with your faithfulness: by your commitment of time, talent, and leadership. Thank you for praying for Giving With Gratitude 2026 and the Pave the Way 2026-2028. Together, we can do this!



**“Lord, what do You want to do through me to fulfill
Your will for Christ Episcopal Church? Amen.”**

Prayer Stones

During the next few weeks, please consider the scripture – Matthew 3:3 in which John the Baptist tells people to get ready for Christ – to pave the way.

On November 9th, we handed out Prayer Stones during the services. If you did not get one, we have extras in the Narthex of the church and chapel. Please spend time with this prayer stone, as you pray about how we are called together as a church family to Pave the Way for Christ.

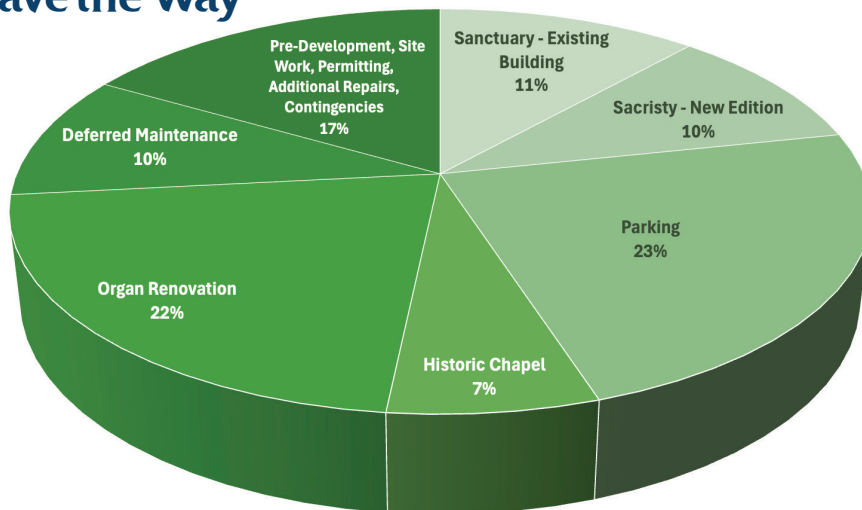
- **Pray** for the congregations who came before us – who generously and faithfully paved the way for us to follow.
- **Pray** that as parishioners, we answer God's call to preserve this sacred campus, grow God's Kingdom of followers, and care for our community.
- **Pray** that we Pave the Way for all those in our community who seek love and a relationship with Christ.
- **Pray** for you and your family's role in strengthening our church and its ministries.

In a year or so, when the foundation of the Sacristy Addition is poured, please bring your prayer stone to a special dedication service. At that time, we will joyfully place these Pave the Way stones into the foundation and give thanks for God hearing our prayers.

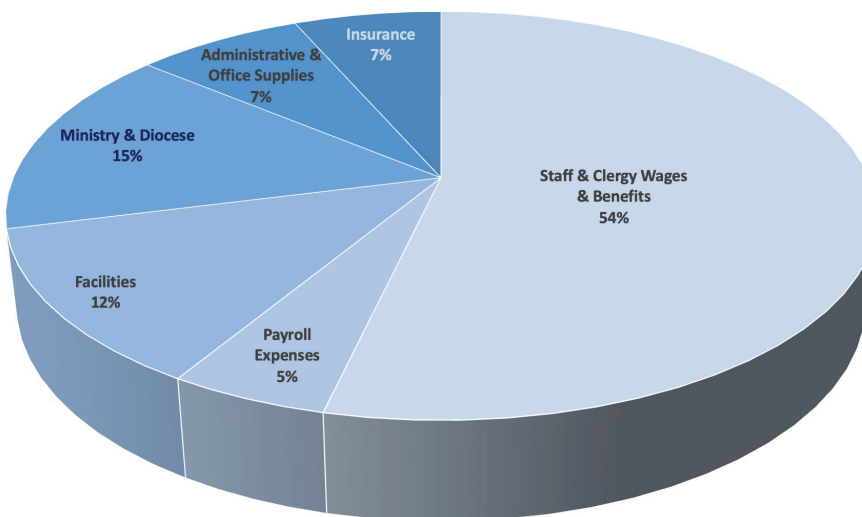
Prayer Beads, made by the Youth Group, are available for purchase at the Connect Table after services. All proceeds will help support the Pave the Way Campaign.

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”– 2 Corinthians 9:8

Pave the Way



Giving With Gratitude



TESTIMONIAL

“I was baptized in the chapel, confirmed and married in the church, and I consider Christ Church my home and the center of my spiritual life. I am giving to the Pave the Way Capital Campaign and the Giving With Gratitude Annual Stewardship Campaign, because I want to make sure that our facilities are beautifully maintained and welcoming to all who want to join us in fellowship and communion here.” – Mimi Goodyear Dossett, Pave the Way Advanced Commitment Co-Chair

Two Campaigns: Questions & Answers

The Pave the Way Capital Campaign and the Giving With Gratitude Annual Stewardship Campaign have two different purposes, and both are critically important to our church. When the church Vestry and Finance Committee plans for the future, they estimate what next year's day-to-day expenses will be. This becomes the church's operating budget. Periodically, the Vestry identifies the need for a capital campaign to fund long-term asset expenditures, so a capital budget is created. Please prayerfully consider our church's needs and contribute to both campaigns. Your support is needed.

1. What is the difference between the Pave the Way Capital Campaign and the annual stewardship campaign, Giving With Gratitude? The Pave the Way Campaign covers the cost of capital improvements and expenses such as expanding the sacristy, adding parking, deferred maintenance, organ repairs, enhancements to the sanctuary, repairs to Holzhall Hall, deferred maintenance for the Chapel, the HVAC system, and more. These are items that our annual operating budget does not cover. The annual stewardship campaign – Giving With Gratitude – covers the church's recurring expenses such as salaries and benefits, administrative costs, insurance, office supplies, utilities, payroll expenses, routine maintenance, security, Diocese commitments, and other recurring costs.

2. Should we make a commitment to both campaigns? Yes, please! Think of the annual stewardship campaign – Giving With Gratitude – as you would your own household budget – bills that must be paid on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. Think of the capital campaign – Pave the Way – as a way to raise funds to pay for enhancements and major improvements as well as major repairs and replacements. These are one-time costs, as opposed to recurring costs. Think of the Pave the Way Capital Campaign expenses like you would if you were adding onto your existing home, replacing a roof or remodeling your kitchen. These are one-time investments into your property – not something you'd do every year.

3. What are the giving timeframes for both campaigns? Please provide financial gifts for the annual Giving With Gratitude during the calendar year 2026 – either as one time gift, quarterly, monthly, or weekly. For the Pave the Way Capital Campaign, this is a three-year timeframe 2026 to 2028. So, divide your commitment however works best for your family each year, but please complete your commitment before December 31st, 2028. However, the sooner the church receives funds, the sooner projects can begin and complete.

4. What is a commitment card and what is its purpose? A commitment card is not a contract, but rather, it is a statement of your intent. The church's finance team needs to have knowledge of what the total dollar amounts are projected to be, and what schedule you plan on giving, so they can plan for upcoming expenditures with confidence.

5. Are commitment amounts kept confidential? Yes! Only our church's financial office will have any knowledge of your confidential gift amount.

6. Can givers change the amount they want to give after making a commitment? Yes! If a family has a change in their financial circumstances after making the commitment, they can increase or decrease the amount by calling the church treasurer.

7. When does the congregation receive the commitment cards? The week before Thanksgiving, the Pave the Way Communications team will mail out the commitment cards to each family. There are two cards in the packet: 1) Capital campaign – Pave the Way and 2) Annual stewardship campaign – Giving With Gratitude.

8. When do we turn in the commitment cards? On December 7th, Celebration & Commitment Sunday, please place your completed cards in the commitment envelope provided and bring to church (only one service that day – 10 am), and place in the collection plate. Father Seth will then bless all the cards that day.

9. Where will the Luncheon on Commitment Sunday take place? The Pave the Way Social Committee has a fantastic catered lunch planned in Holzhall Hall immediately following the 10 am service. They will bring in additional tables and chairs to accommodate everyone. The Bishop will join us, as well. Make plans to attend.

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce” – Proverbs 3:9 instructs



PAVE THE WAY

Pave the Way Committee Leaders and Chairs

Advanced Commitment Co-Chairs

Mimi Dossett and Tim Cutt

Campaign Co-Leaders

Ray Rabidoux and Laura Williams

Campaign Coordinator

Lorraine Chotin

Children's Activity Co-Leaders

Lila Daniel and Olivia Moss

Communications Leader

Chandra Gordon

Contact Co-Leaders

Carolyn Carpenter and Roz Rhodes

Follow-Up Co-Leaders

Deborah Gordon and Bruce Margetson

Prayer Co-Leaders

Dianne Allen-Pierce and
Penny Bankston

Hospitality & Special Events Leader

Mary Thomas Coady and
Lisa Condrey Ward

Church Administrator

Mary Anne Reidy

Executive Committee Member

Susan Atkins

Clergy Leaders

Father Guimond Pierre Louis
Father Seth Donald

Giving With Gratitude Stewardship Team

Ray Rabidoux
Betsy Tarkington
Tim Wolfe
Scott Chotin
Bobby Coxe
Bruce Margetson
Rich Richardson
Penny Bankston
Laura Williams
Chandra Gordon



Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

What is a QCD?

- A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a **direct transfer** from your IRA to a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit, such as Christ Episcopal Church.
- Available to IRA owners age **70½ or older**.
- Annual limit: \$100,000 per person (\$200,000 for a married couple if both qualify).

Tax Benefits of a QCD

- Normally, traditional IRA withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income. A QCD is **excluded** from taxable income and is not included in adjusted gross income (AGI).
- If you are age **73 or older** and required to take a **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)**, a QCD may satisfy all or part of your RMD without increasing taxable income.
- Lower AGI can reduce:
 - Federal income tax on Social Security benefits
 - Medicare premiums (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, or IRMAA)

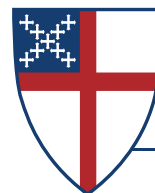
- Provides tax benefits even if you take the **standard deduction**.
- Unlike traditional charitable deductions, QCDs reduce taxable income directly.

How to Make a QCD Gift

1. Contact your **IRA custodian** and request a Qualified Charitable Distribution payable to: Christ Episcopal Church Covington (EIN: 72-0633945).
2. Ask your custodian to mail the check directly to:
Christ Episcopal Church Covington
Attn: Treasurer
129 N. New Hampshire Street
Covington, LA 70433
3. Notify the parish office at 985.892.3177 so your gift is recorded properly.

Please consult your financial or tax advisor to confirm that a QCD is appropriate for your individual situation.

**“A voice of one calling
in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the
way for the Lord, make straight
paths for him.’” – Matthew 3:3**



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