

VESTRY NEWS

Rhode Island is a small state, but we do not know every corner of it. We often do not know the numerous needs outside of St. John's or Barrington. Regardless of our fervor and diligence, we cannot be everywhere to help and minister. We make choices. The same is true across the United States. St. John's has chosen to minister to St. Ann's in the Bronx in a variety of ways, and yet needs remain in vast expanses of this great and wealthy country of ours. When St. John's searched for a new rector, Robert was searching for a call to bring him to where he was needed, and he needed to be. We required a structure and system to help us find one another.

As much as we may like to, the people of St. John's cannot do everything or help everyone. We cannot be everywhere. We cannot do everything alone. There are some things we do not want to do – like running the larger Episcopal Church. There are some things we are ill-equipped to do -- like administering grants to support mission churches in other parts of Rhode Island. There are some things we can do only if we combine our time, talent, and treasure, with others in the church.

How can we be more and do more than simply what we do here at St. John's Barrington? One way we already do this is through “apportionment” money that we pay to the Diocese of Rhode Island. We carry “apportionment” as a budget line item each and every year. The Diocese of Rhode Island also pays an apportionment to the national Episcopal Church. Funds from apportionment pay for slightly more than one half the Diocese of Rhode Island's operating budget in 2011. This year, St. John's pays an apportionment equivalent to 17% of its total normal operating income, an amount that approaches \$100,000 per year. This figure includes plate income, our pledge payments, our net operating investment incomes, and other operating incomes. Some items are not subject to apportionment, including bequests, income for outreach, and income from restricted or designated offerings.

So, how is our and others churches' apportionment money used by the diocese? Here are a few examples:

- Not surprisingly, our apportionment, combined with that of the other churches in Rhode Island, pays for part (less than half) of our bishop's salary and benefits;
- Apportionment helps to fund the Episcopal Conference Center;
- It pays for the Diocese's deployment officer who helped to bring Robert to St. John's; and,
- It funds the Diocese's Hispanic Ministry Commission, an initiative helping the Episcopal Church to serve the twenty-three distinct and growing Hispanic communities in Rhode Island.

You can delve into the Diocese's finances in detail at:

<http://www.episcopalri.org/DepartmentsOffices/Finance/tabid/183/Default.aspx>

At this link you will find the diocese budget summary and detailed budget for 2011, which includes information on exactly what is paid for by apportionment.

The formula and percentage for the apportionment is set each year at Convention, so if you are interested in this aspect of our and the Episcopal Church's finances, you should consider becoming a delegate to the Convention.

We at St. John's are part of something bigger than our red brick church. We seek to have an impact beyond our walls and beyond Barrington. Our involvement in, and regular contribution to, the Diocese of Rhode Island is one way we do that.

Sincerely,

Your Vestry