**Treasurer’s Report**

**September 18, 2021**

**By Nelson Crandall**

**Pledge Donations through August 31.** August pledge donations were less anemic than July’s were. Cumulative pledge donations for 2021 are slightly less than 8/12 of the budgeted annual pledge donations but not much different from previous years at this point.

**Total Donations.** Last month’s report noted that the parish has received unusually high non-pledge donations in 2021. Donations received this year but credited to 2020 are also much higher than anticipated. The bookkeeper worked with stewardship last month to reclassify some non-pledge donations as pledge donations. I’ve asked them to examine donations credited to 2020 as well. Total donations through August remain ahead of budget by more than $8,000.

**Mid-year Fundraiser**. It does not look like we are going to have a midyear fundraiser in 2021.

**Ministry Expenses.** Ministry expenses continue to appear to be on budget. Ministry expense categories include worship, parish life, stewardship, education, and outreach. The August report shows that ministry expenses are under budget by around $6,200.00, most of which is due to timing differences. The annual budget includes $1,500 for grants the Outreach Committee has yet to make; $1,500 for COPA that is yet to be paid; and $3,000 for the diocesan regional youth group that is yet to be paid. I thought the cost of the upcoming Gratitude & Resilience Dinner on August 29 would show up in August; I assume it will show up in the September report.

**Campus Expenses.** Campus expenses were more than $2,800 ahead of budget through August. The difference appears to be attributable to timing differences.

**Bookkeeping.** Bookkeeping expenses are now 103% of the budget for the entire year. It’s more than we’d like, but we are continuing to see improvement in our understanding of our finances.

**Accounting Frustrations.** The shortcomings of our current arrangement with QuickBooks are becoming more apparent. QuickBooks currently comingles the parish’s “normal” operations with those of the ACYP program, the Helpful Shop, the four endowments we manage (2 Mikkelsen endowments, one parish endowment, and the Rebele endowment), and the sizeable building fund and community project fund. We can’t use the endowments for operating purposes, but we still classify them as current assets because their corpuses consist of current assets. I would like to be able to understand the parish’s available cash position at glance but can’t do better than check the balance in the main checking account. I’m less worried about being short of cash than of not making good use of our cash. Remember the parable about the servant who buried his talent.

**Personnel Expense.** Personnel expenses are ahead of the budget through August for the same reasons as in July. Our two-week pay period never synchs with the calendar month. An outside source has directly funded part of our Director of Children and Family Ministries, keeping us ahead of budget for most of the year.

**Cash.** Today’s cash balance in the parish main checking account is more than $91,000. That’s down 9% from a month ago, but still respectable.

**Helpful Shop.** Helpful Shop news is very exciting. August net sales were almost equal to those of the entire first quarter. If the Helpful Shop breaks even for the last four months of the year, the parish will get a $4,396 tithe, more than twice what we budgeted for the year, and $23,000 will be available for community grants.

**Financial Statements.** Our webmaster and Senior Warden, Bart Coddington, posts our financial statements on our website each month. You can find them at <http://www.st-john-aptos.org/financials.html>.

**Questions?** I love questions once I get over the suggestion that my work is less than perfect. (That usually takes about 15 seconds.) My goal is to provide financial information that you can understand. If you ask a question, it means that you didn’t just throw up your hands.