THE
Episcopal
CHURCH

The Episcopal Church by the Numbers:

Analysis of the 2024 Parochial Report Data

Prepared for the Executive Officer of The Episcopal Church
by Hartford Institute for Religion Research
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THE GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A.D. 1785

Hartford Institute FOR RELIGION RESEARCH

FOREWORD

This year's report represents a significant departure from the previous annual publications, because the content of the report form changed significantly for 2024.

The House of Deputies' Committee on the State of the Church, with the approval of Executive Council, significantly revised the questions included in the 2024 Parochial Report form to better capture the evolving needs and circumstances of Episcopal congregations. This means that certain data points collected in previous years may not be directly comparable to this year's findings. While this creates some discontinuity in the historical trend analysis, these changes were necessary to ensure the annual reporting remained relevant and responsive to the current landscape of congregational life. The few trends which can be tracked over time are included at the end of this report.

Overall the 2024 Parochial Report provides a broader insight into the life of congregations, sharing more about the various programs, initiatives, and activities that happen week after week. This is also the first year there has been consistent reporting of online worship engagement, which allows a more complete picture. Additionally, there are new questions about endowments, debt, and building usage to help provide a more holistic understanding of the financial life of parishes.

The 2024 Parochial Report data collection achieved a robust 94.1% response rate. This high level of participation suggests that the data presented in this report provides a comprehensive picture of The Episcopal Church.

CONGREGATIONS

6,707 Open Parishes and Missions in 2024

6,310 (94.1%) Submitted data to the 2024 Parochial Report





SERVICE ATTENDANCE

In-Person and Online

413,034

Total Average Sunday Attendance
In-Person

121,545

Total Average Sunday Attendance
Online (livestream)

183,156

Total Average Weekday Attendance
In-Person

75,103

Total Average Weekday Attendance
Online (livestream)

46.9% congregations report having people watch services online later in the week, with a median of **27** views per congregation per week

38

Median Average Sunday Attendance In-Person

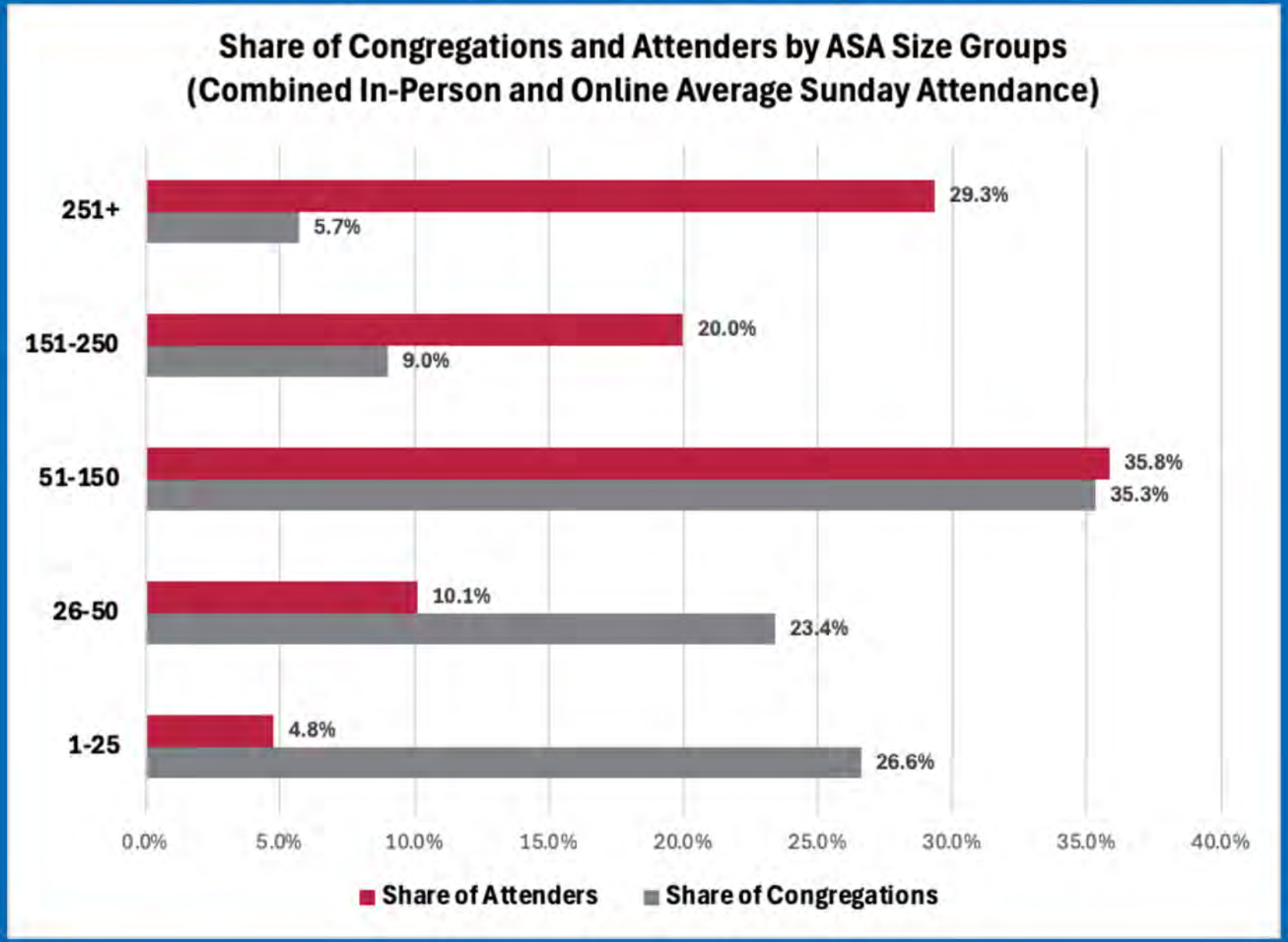
3

Median Average Sunday Attendance Online

46

Median Average Sunday Attendance Combined (In-Person and Online)

Most churches are small, but most people attend larger churches





SERVICES

523,133
Eucharist Services
&
258,004
Daily Offices

Christmas Attendance **960,207**

950,275 Easter Attendance

Burial Services **24,165**

4,951 Marriage Services

THE PEOPLE

12,600 confirmations

5,441 receptions

19,624 baptisms

1,032,518 total communicants in good standing, 13.9% of whom are youth communicants *(under age 16)*

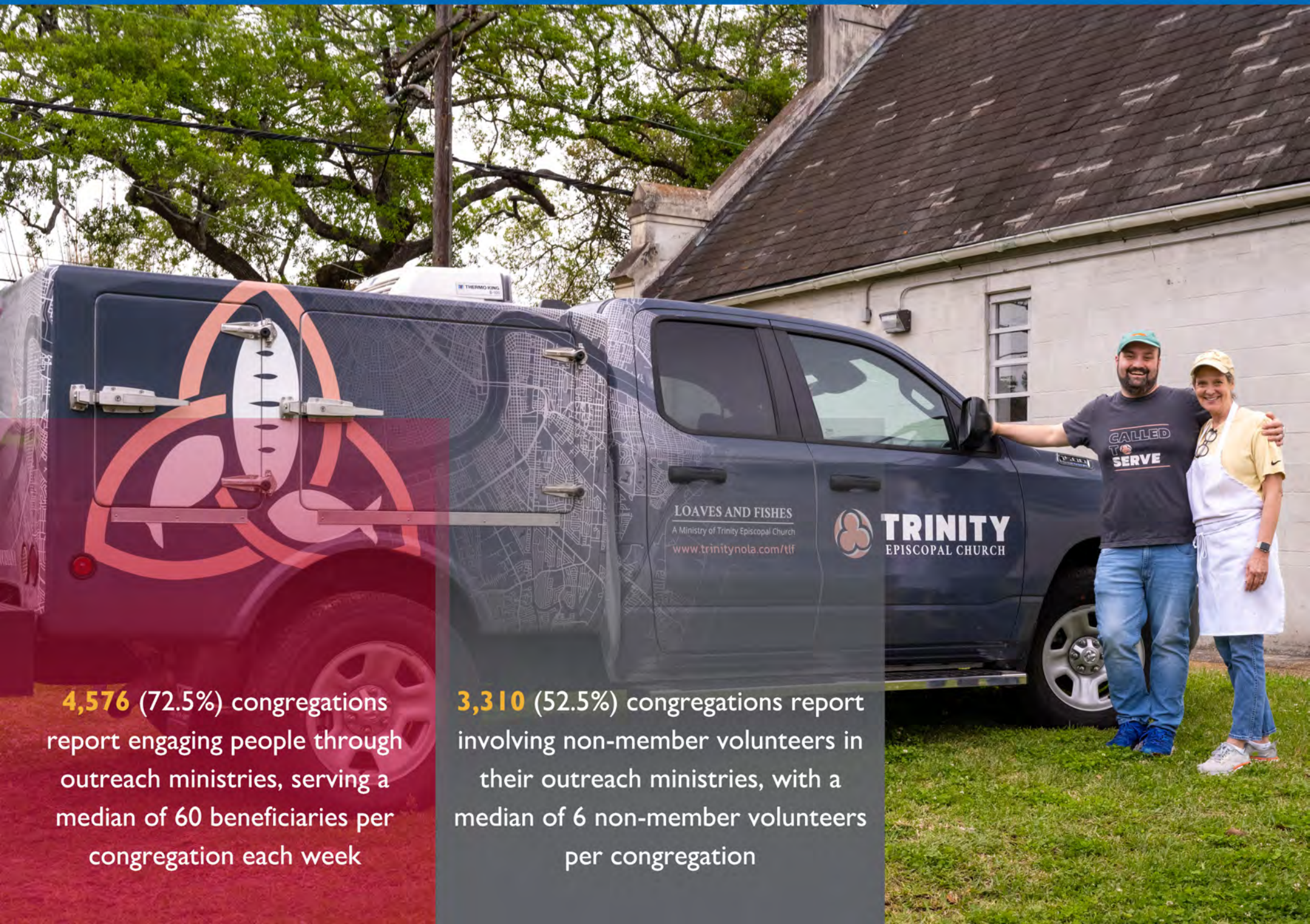
Median average age is **60 years old**

Median percent White is **95%**





OUTREACH

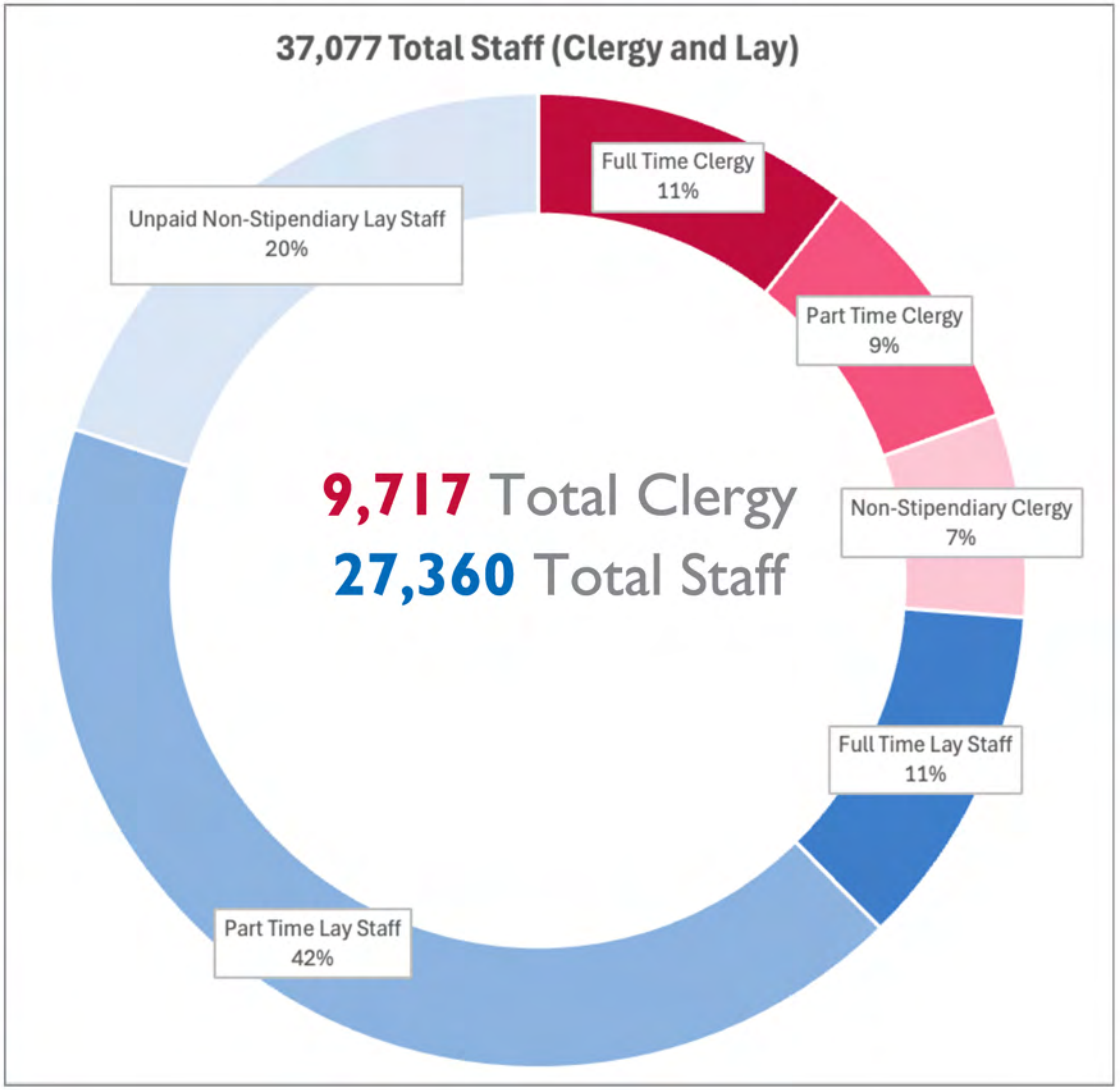


4,576 (72.5%) congregations report engaging people through outreach ministries, serving a median of 60 beneficiaries per congregation each week

3,310 (52.5%) congregations report involving non-member volunteers in their outreach ministries, with a median of 6 non-member volunteers per congregation

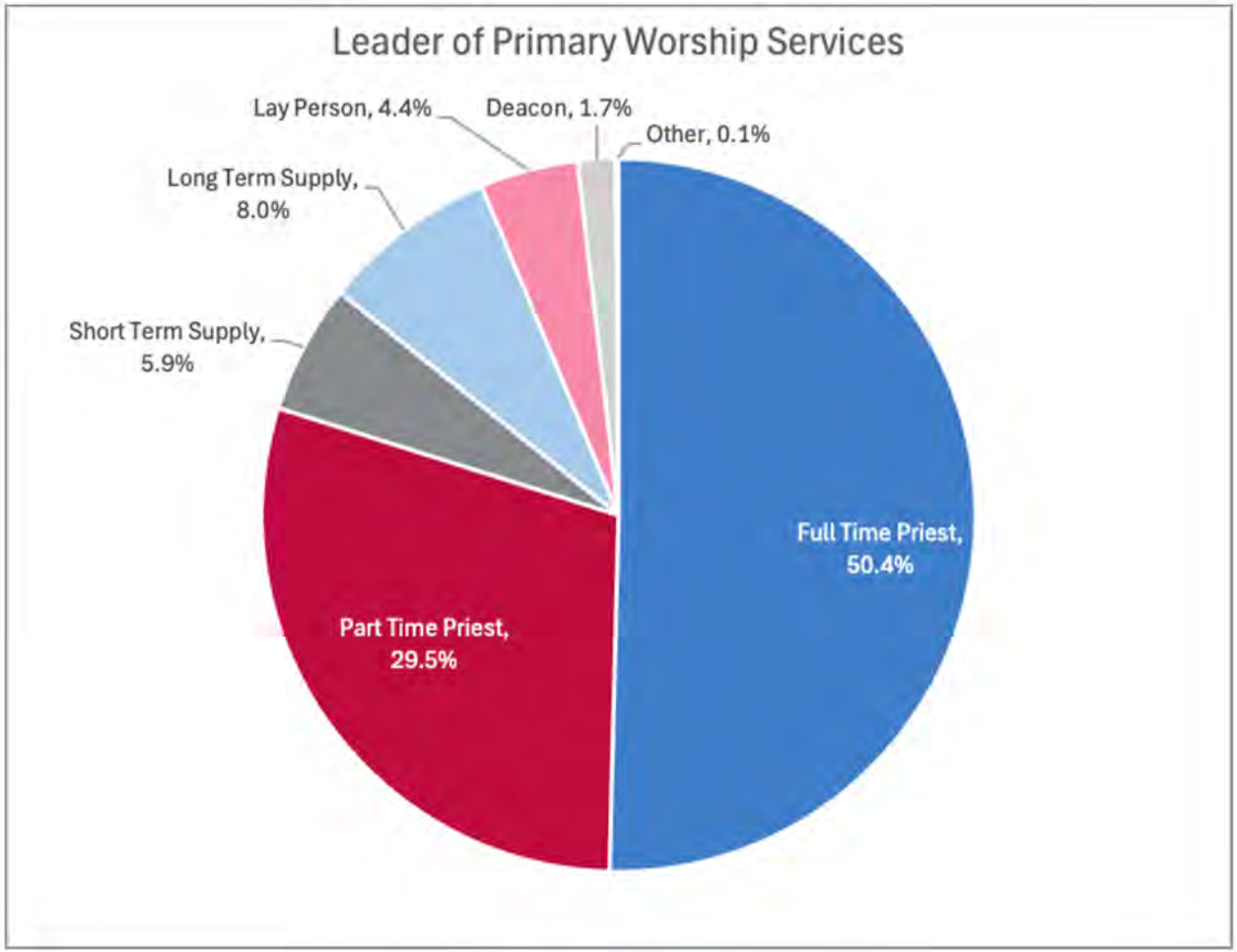
CLERGY & STAFF





1,803 Total Parishes
with a Deacon

WORSHIP LEADERS

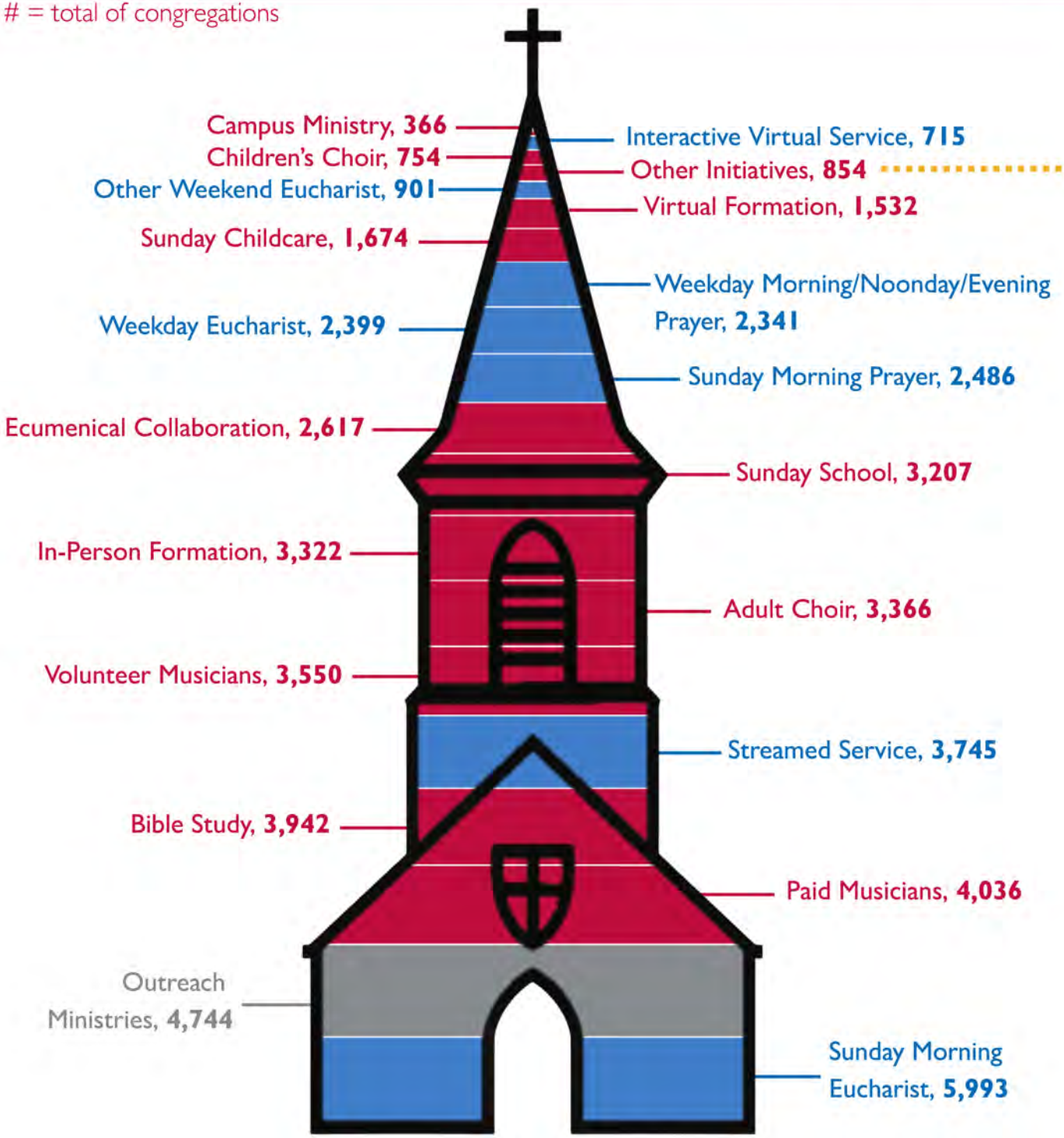


Unique Clergy Situations

- Long Term Supply or Interim
  1,017
- Call to Common Ministry
  225
- Clergy from Anglican Communion
  158
- Other Arrangements
  852

SERVICES, PROGRAMS, & INITIATIVES

= total of congregations



Other Initiatives Include:

- **Worship:** Traditional & contemporary services, online ministry, healing services, compline, Taizé
- **Outreach:** Food pantries, thrift shops, homeless assistance, prison ministry, refugee support
- **Education:** Adult formation, youth programs, VBS, children's ministries, day schools
- **Pastoral Care:** Home communion, sick visits, grief support, senior/veteran ministries
- **Arts:** Choirs, concerts, theater, handbell groups, community cultural events
- **Justice:** Anti-racism, LGBTQ+ support, creation care, immigration assistance
- **Partnerships:** 12-step hosting, school collaboration, interfaith cooperation, civic engagement

SCHOOLS & PARTNERSHIPS



CONGREGATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Preschool or Nursery Program	**765**
K-8 School	**170**
9-12 School	**62**



SUBSIDIARY or ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS

1,646 congregations with a Subsidiary or Associated Outreach Ministry or Other Organization

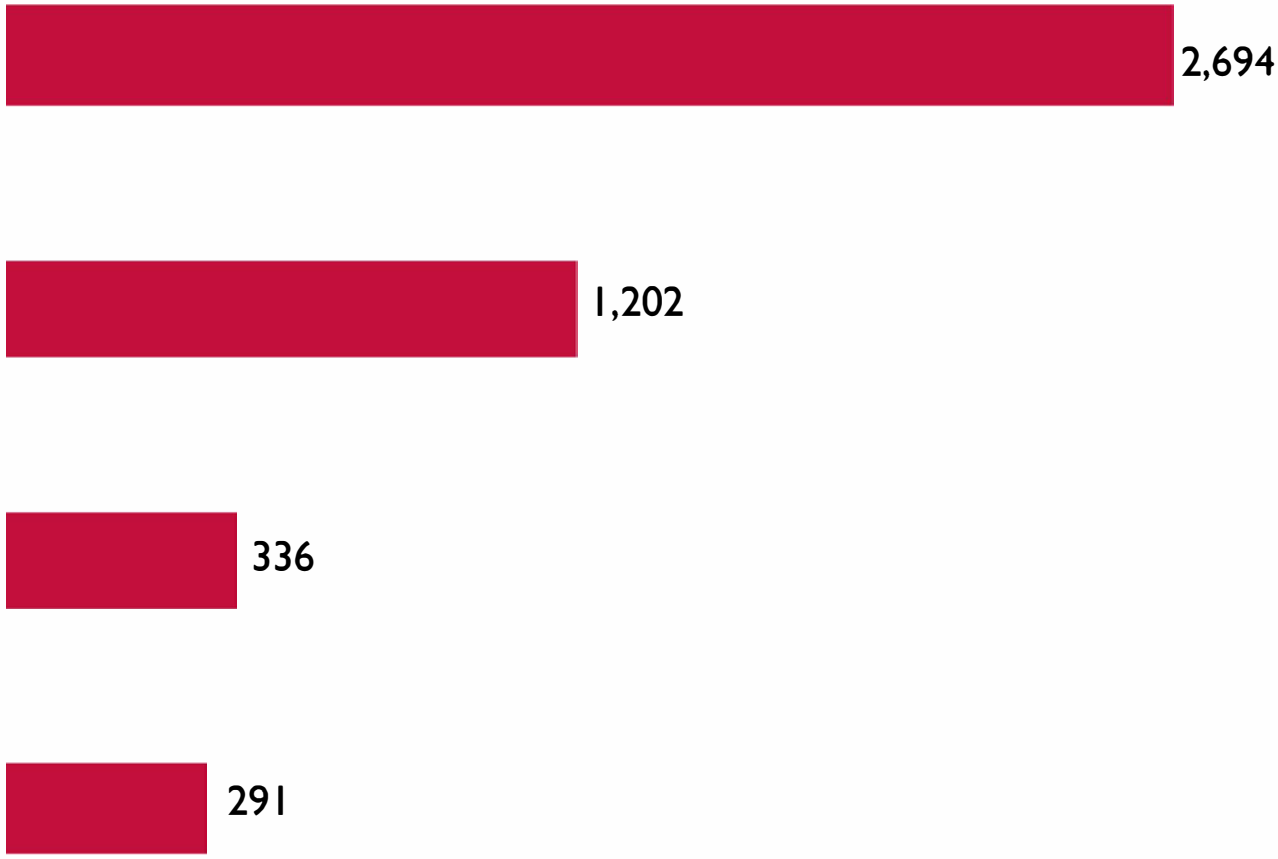
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:

- **Community partnerships:** Space rental or specialty schools
- **Social services:** Thrift shops, food pantries, shelters, or clinics
- **Support groups:** AA/NA meetings, mental health services
- **Youth activities:** After-school care or summer camps
- **Specialized ministries:** Prison ministry or missions
- **Arts & culture:** Music schools or dance programs

PROGRAMS & INITATIVES

Out of the 4,718 responses to the question, **"What is one program or initiative at your Church that you feel best exemplifies your congregation?"** congregations across parishes identified four top themes.

- **Food & Clothing Ministries:** involves creating or expanding food and clothing programs by establishing pantries, preparing and distributing meals, or creating informal thrift shops and clothing exchange opportunities.
- **Special Worship & Cultural Events:** encompasses special events hosted by the church for the congregation and community, featuring worship elements and resources, such as Christmas services, fundraisers, and community meals.
- **Housing & Shelter Initiatives:** includes programs that assist individuals in finding housing after reentering society from prison and provide resources for the unhoused.
- **Christian Education & Formation:** emphasizes the importance of Christian education for children, youth, and adults, including Sunday School and catechism, which align with both mission and identity.



PROGRAMS & INITATIVES

The most frequently mentioned are the development or expansion of **food and clothing ministries,** where congregations are providing groceries, meals, clothing, and household supplies.

"Feeding Bodies and Souls... best exemplifies our congregation's heart and mission. This ministry began with the simple passion to do Christ's work by "feeding the least of these" - our neighbors in need. ***Beyond providing food, we create a safe, judgment-free environment*** *where people receive Christ's love through conversation and encouragement. In 2024, our fifth year of operation, the pantry* ***served over 407 different households*** *representing 1,405 individuals. Of those served,* ***35% were children and youth*** *under 18, while 23% were seniors over 60. Our reach extends across* ***54 different zip codes,*** *with 24% of recipients residing in our immediate neighborhood."*

- St. Andrews, Birmingham, AL



WORSHIP SERVICE LANGUAGES

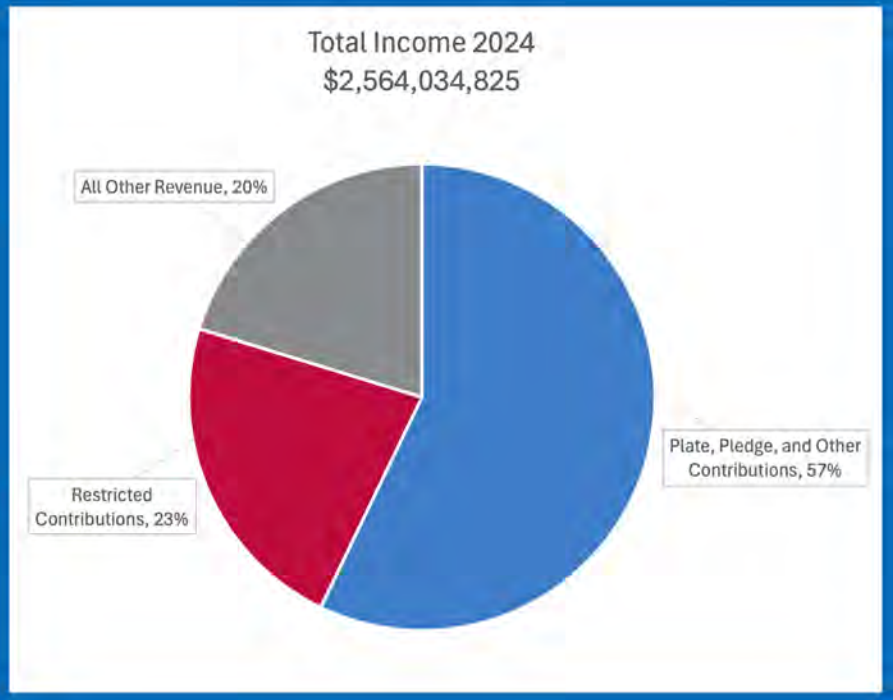
5,828 congregations offer services in English

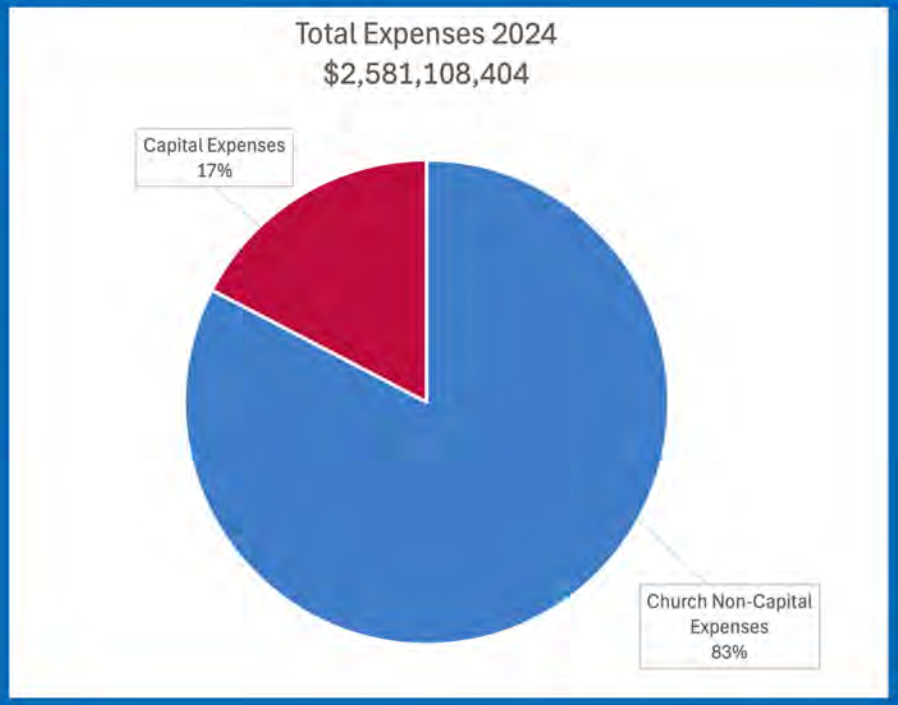
243 offer a service that is simultaneously conducted in more than one language

Spanish	673	Arabic	6	Telugu	2
French	139	Italian	5	Urdu	2
Haitian Creole	130	Malayalam	4	Vietnamese	2
Lakota	44	Hmong	4	Amharic	1
Dakota	19	Hindi	3	Bengali	1
Hawaiian	19	Ilokano	3	Dutch	1
Dinka	14	Tongan	3	Filipino	1
Tagalog	10	Chinese (Simplified)	2	Greek	1
Korean	9	Chuukese	2	Gujarati	1
Navajo	9	Farsi	2	Kannada	1
Chinese (Traditional)	8	Georgian	2	Khmer	1
German	8	Igbo	2	Marshallese	1
Karen	8	Inupiaq	2	Ojibwe	1
Latin	7	Luganda	2	Samoan	1
Swahili	7	Portuguese	2	S'gaw Karen	1

FINANCES

- Total income of $2.5 Billion including $1.4 Billion plate and pledge contributions
- **314,193** total pledge cards with a median average pledge amount of $3,093
- Total expenses of $2.5 Billion including 17% capital expenses





ENDOWMENTS & INVESTMENTS



74.5% of congregations report having an endowment or investment account

Total of **$5.2 Billion** in endowments and **$1.6 Billion** in investments

Median endowment size of around **$202,000** and median investments of about **$54,000**

Median draw rate from endowment of **3.3%**

DEBT

21.1% of congregations report having outstanding debt totaling around $375 million with a median of around $55,000.



The most common reasons for these debts are building infrastructure maintenance (particularly roof replacements and HVAC system upgrades), property mortgages on church buildings and rectories, and capital improvement projects.

Many parishes also carry debt from COVID-19 pandemic relief loans and energy efficiency investments.

Many churches rely on low-interest diocesan loan programs for financing these initiatives.

BUILDINGS, LAND, & RENTAL INCOME



82.8% of congregations own buildings and/or land with the rest renting or borrowing space.

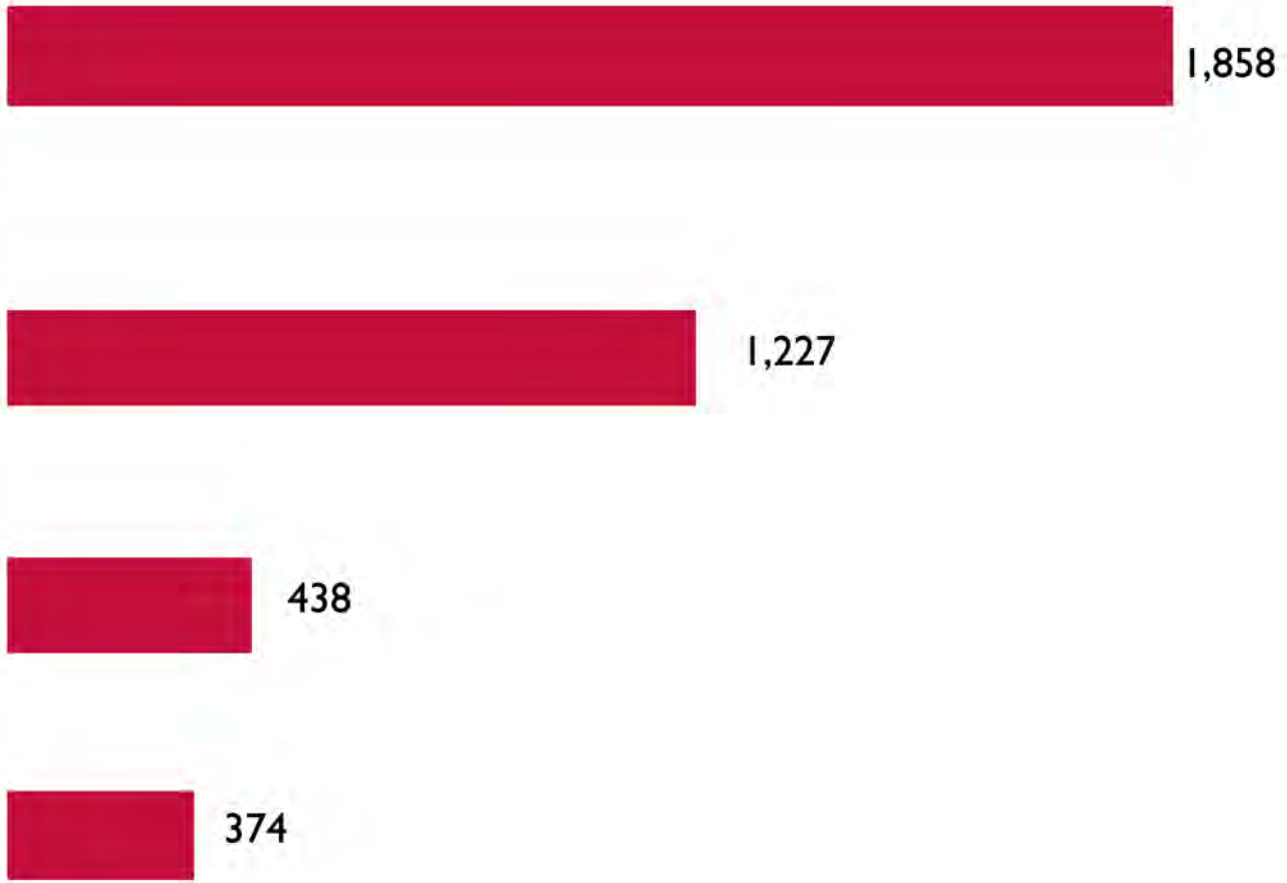
Just over half (55%) of these congregations rent or lease a potion of their building(s) or land to groups outside of the congregation.

Among those who rent out their buildings, the median revenue earned annually is about $13,000 and the median expenses incurred are about $700 annually.

REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT

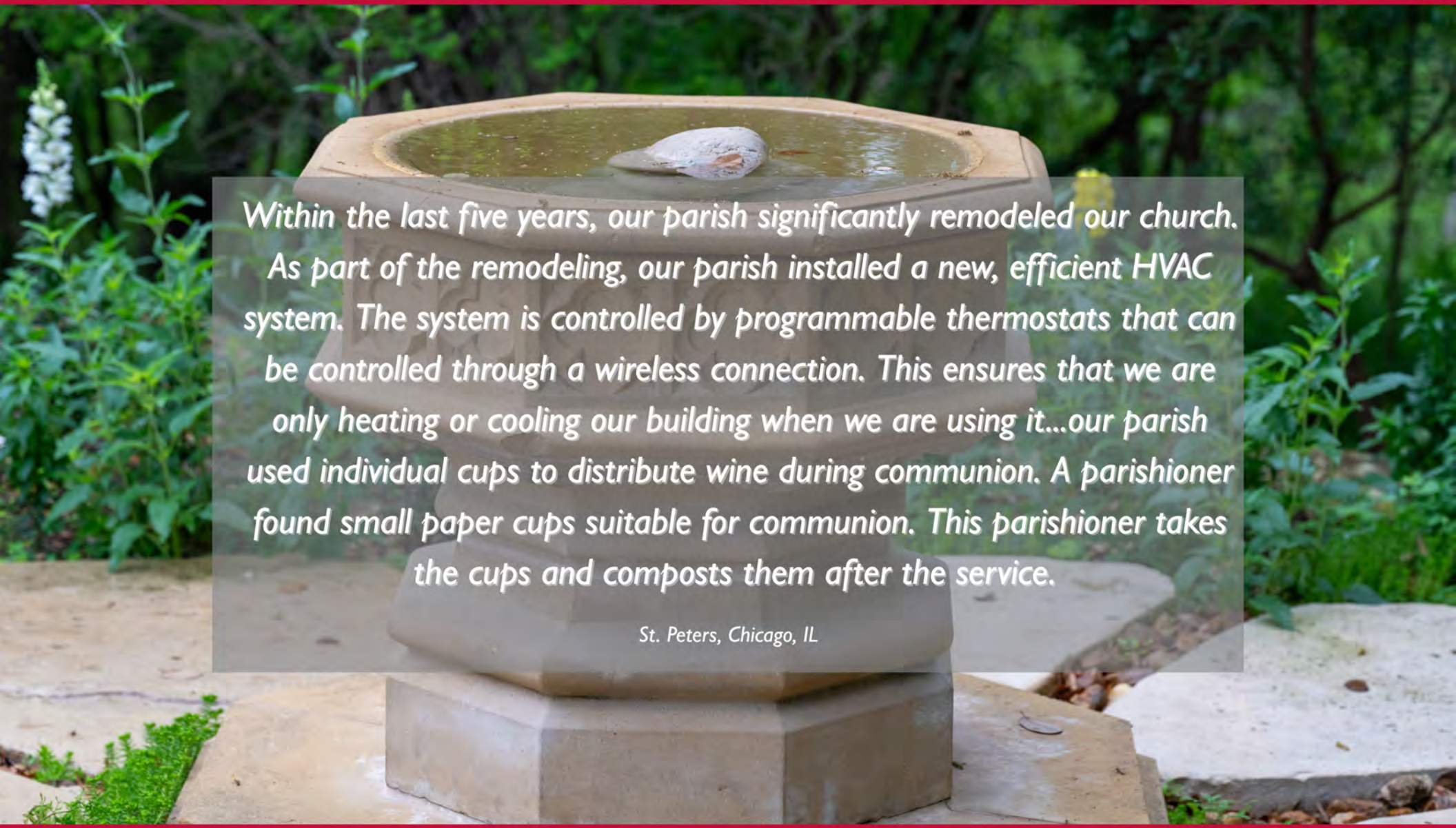
Out of the **4,216** responses to the question, **"How is your parish reducing your carbon footprint?"** congregations across parishes identified four top themes.

- **Energy Efficiency:** upgrading to LED lighting, reducing energy use, balancing thermostats to minimize consumption, updating HVAC systems, adding insulation, and replacing windows.
- **Recycling & Waste Reduction:** recycling paper, plastic, aluminum, and clothing; decreasing single-use items and switching to reusables; using less Styrofoam; and opting for more biodegradable and reusable materials like glass.
- **Water Conservation:** decreasing water usage and maintaining building systems (e.g., plumbing) to prevent leaks in toilets, sinks, etc.
- **Paper Reduction & Digital Communication:** digitizing newsletters, reusing church bulletin inserts, reducing page counts, and using QR codes.



REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT

The most frequently mentioned are efforts towards **energy efficiency.** Ultimately, congregations are taking action to update infrastructure to reduce the amount of energy used by upgrading HVAC units, adding insulation, replacing windows, and updating to LED lighting.



Within the last five years, our parish significantly remodeled our church. As part of the remodeling, our parish installed a new, efficient HVAC system. The system is controlled by programmable thermostats that can be controlled through a wireless connection. This ensures that we are only heating or cooling our building when we are using it...our parish used individual cups to distribute wine during communion. A parishioner found small paper cups suitable for communion. This parishioner takes the cups and composts them after the service.

St. Peters, Chicago, IL

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Out of the 4,444 responses to the question, **"What is one program or initiative at your Church that represents your hope for the future of your congregation or the greater Episcopal Church?"** congregations across parishes identified four top themes.

- **Social Justice Initiatives:** describes addressing social inequality through various programs/collaborations, like hosting food pantries, clothing exchanges, and recovery groups like AA, as well as offering meals, showers to the unhoused, and Narcan training.



- **Youth & Children's Ministry:** emphasizes developing or expanding programs that engage children, youth, and families through worship, education, service, and fellowship (e.g., youth group and confirmation preparation).



- **Worship & Music:** expresses the importance of communal worship (e.g., congregational singing, choirs, and instrumental), new worship opportunities for the church and community, and the joy of music after disruptions caused by COVID-19.



- **Christian Education & Lifelong Discipleship:** describes Christian education as a lifelong journey, emphasizing understanding scripture, liturgy, and theology, and integrating faith into daily life



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

The most frequently mentioned are efforts toward **social justice.** Ultimately, congregations and the wider community are collaborating and working toward shared social justice initiatives, fighting against societal ills like food insecurity, and developing programs teaching mental health awareness.

Over the past few years, St. Paul's has committed itself to the ***work of racial justice****, not only by what we preach but also how we engage in the broader community. Many of our parishioners have participated in Sacred Ground. Our youth participate in a Youth for Justice pilgrimage with youth from the MLK Center. We* ***formed a Racial Justice Team to facilitate our learning, to challenge our comfort and privilege, and to focus our initiatives.*** *Our music ministry has sought out Black and female composers to ensure* ***greater diversity in the music*** *that is heard and sung in worship. With* ***community partners,*** *we developed a* ***mentoring program*** *called Puentes for Latino youth in Central Indiana.*

St. Paul's, Indianapolis, IN



Province I

Total Congregations: 556

Total ASA (in-person): 29,949
Total ASA (online): 8,036

Total income: $202,406,429

Total Clergy Staff: 823
Total Lay Staff: 2,274

Province II

Total Congregations: 1,077

Total ASA (in-person): 58,881
Total ASA (online): 16,233

Total income: $279,955,345

Total Clergy Staff: 1,314
Total Lay Staff: 3,619

Province III

Total Congregations: 948

Total ASA (in-person): 61,047
Total ASA (online): 25,443

Total income: $408,792,524

Total Clergy Staff: 1,378
Total Lay Staff: 4,110

Province IV

Total Congregations: 1,240

Total ASA (in-person): 105,033
Total ASA (online): 31,190

Total income: $673,283,605

Total Clergy Staff: 1,910
Total Lay Staff: 6,041

Province V

Total Congregations: 704

Total ASA (in-person): 35,009
Total ASA (online): 8,583

Total income: $212,933,792

Total Clergy Staff: 1,039
Total Lay Staff: 2,714

Province VI

Total Congregations: 461

Total ASA (in-person): 17,772
Total ASA (online): 4,333

Total income: $112,074,269

Total Clergy Staff: 661
Total Lay Staff: 1,323

Province VII

Total Congregations: 657

Total ASA (in-person): 51,380
Total ASA (online): 13,816

Total income: $359,271,770

Total Clergy Staff: 1,045
Total Lay Staff: 3,419

Province VIII

Total Congregations: 808

Total ASA (in-person): 46,204
Total ASA (online): 13,176

Total income: $286,368,906

Total Clergy Staff: 1,337
Total Lay Staff: 3,377

Province IX

Total Congregations: 256

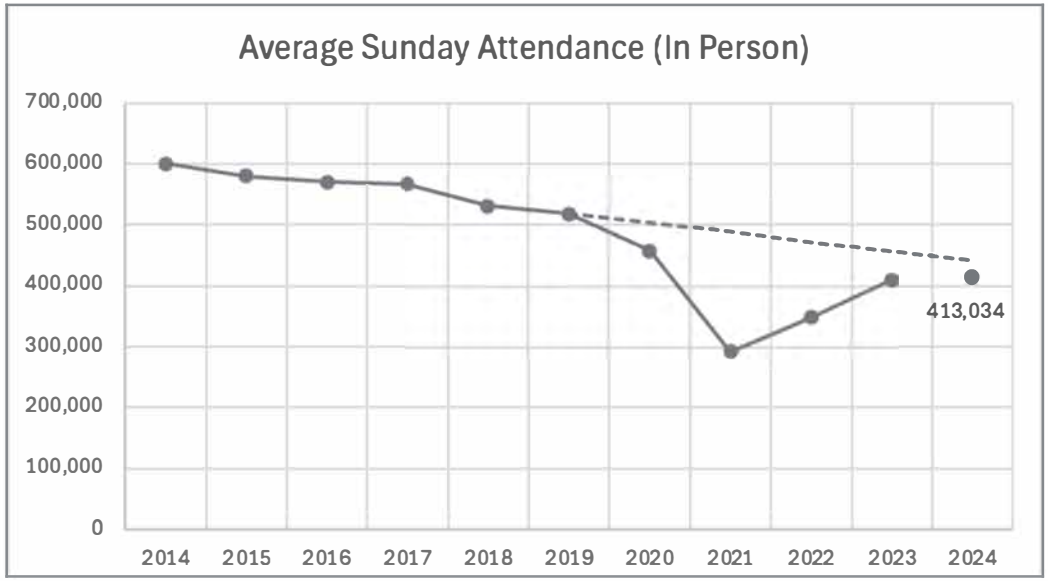
Total ASA (in-person): 7,759
Total ASA (online): 735

Total income: $28,948,185

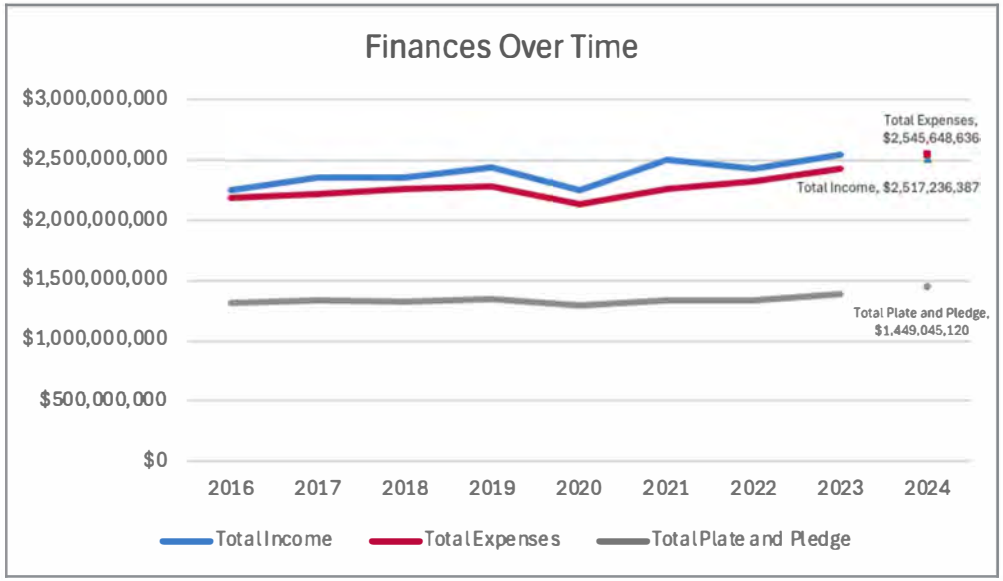
Total Clergy Staff: 210
Total Lay Staff: 483

LIMITED TREND DATA

As mentioned in the foreword, this year's report is significantly different from the reports from previous years. Due to changes in the questionnaire as well as in the data handling process, most data are not able to be compared over time. However, there are a few trends which can be looked at over time—with great caution. The few comparable trends are Average Sunday Attendance (in-person only) and finances.[1] Below are the graphs but note the disconnect in the graph to depict the trend is not continuable due to changes in the data management process.



In-person ASA continues to rebound after the dip it took during the pandemic. However, the recovery is only back to the previous point of decline.



For the first time, total expenses are greater than the total income. Plate and pledge income continues to rise, but only accounts for just over half of the income received.

[1] For comparability over time, financial data reported for filing congregations in the USA, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Micronesia, and Europe only.