

Treasurer's Letter, 2Q23

I am pleased to report on the first-half financial results of the parish. For the year through June 30, our revenue and expenses are both very close to their budgeted amounts.

Our income includes pledges, offering plate contributions, rental income from the Kind Mind Kids pre-school. Our total income for the first six months was \$96,300, which is 94% of the budgeted amount for the period. Pledges are both an important part of our income and an outward expression of our commitment to Immanuel Highlands parish. First-half pledges were slightly off pace (86% of the budgeted amount), which is not alarming because pledge timing is irregular. Pledges are critical to our operations and the parish thanks you for faithfully fulfilling your pledge.

Our major expenses include staff salaries, technology expenses, property-related costs, and our contribution to the diocese. Funds for outreach, liturgy, and the many activities of a parish comprise the balance of our expenses. Our total first-half expenses were \$174,100, or also 94% of the budgeted amount. The portfolio covered the deficit of nearly \$78,000.

The special congregational meeting on July 9 made our financial situation clear and described three initiatives adopted by the vestry to change our course toward a sounder financial future. Because we rely on our investment portfolio to cover our operating deficits, the longevity of the portfolio determines Immanuel's prospects. With financial projections that incorporate plausible investment returns over 1,000 hypothetical futures, the vestry and congregation explored the long-term implications of three critical initiatives:

1. Weaving the proven Invite, Welcome, and Connect mind-set into everything at Immanuel.
2. Maximizing the revenue available from our facility, especially unused space in the Clash wing.
3. Aligning the job descriptions and hours of our staff positions with our current needs.

The financial projections suggest that successful execution of these changes might extend the longevity of the portfolio – and therefore the parish – well beyond the next decade. With the projections as guidance, the vestry has seized its fiscal responsibility and acted as sound fiduciaries of Immanuel Highlands. Its efforts to reduce our annual deficit are borne of a love for Immanuel Highlands and its wonderful people, a clear-eyed view of its financial responsibilities, confidence in the future, and faith in a bountiful God.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Fairchild

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