

Part V

Managing Our Money – Suggested Donations

(This is part of an ongoing series of articles about the church's finances by Dual Macintyre, Treasurer)

Last year, the Vestry formalized a list of suggested donations for some of the events at the church. While most people realize that there are costs associated with weddings, many do not realize that other events such as funerals, memorial services, receptions and Memorial Garden inurnments, also cause costs for the church. If there is music at a wedding or funeral, the Music Director must be paid. The church and/or Gardner Hall also must be cleaned after each event. The Parish Administrator must make all the arrangements for the event and that takes her time. And then we have the cost of heating, lights, water and garbage collection – small perhaps for one event, but the cost of many events is considerable. For example, the heating and hot water bill for the church and Gardner Hall alone was more than \$16,000 last year.

Other churches on the island have suggested donations for events, as do most churches on the Cape. Almost all make a distinction between members of the congregation and non-members when they determine the level of suggested donations and our Vestry has done that as well. Here is the current list of suggested donations for events:

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Wedding Ceremony	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,000
Funeral/Memorial Service	\$ 500	\$ 500
Memorial Garden Inurnment (includes perpetual care)	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000
Reception	\$ 500	\$ 1,000

The Vestry also gave the Rector the authority to waive or adjust any of the above if circumstances so warrant. In addition, we have approached all the organizations that use our facilities regularly and asked them to make donations to help offset the cost of our utilities. Those organizations, St. Paul's Cooperative Nursery, A.A., the Food Pantry and New Life Ministries, have all agreed and are now making contributions to help offset our rising utility costs. All together, we hope to receive \$16,000 in donations this year to help defray the costs of maintaining our buildings.