



DID YOU KNOW?

THIS IS A COLUMN THAT WILL APPEAR REGULARLY IN THE NEWSLETTER.

In response to some of the questions asked at the congregational meeting on February 8:

The Clergy Discretionary Funds are used to address all kinds of needs among congregation and community members. Payments for food, rent, utilities and medical bills and the like for persons in need are typical uses. Expenditures for the spiritual nurture of others, such as pastoral contacts at meals are acceptable. Examples of other expenses include attendance at conferences (*if not covered by the Conference budget, see below*), purchases of books and journals to be used in work (not for personal enjoyment or ownership), entertainment of individuals with a purpose directly related to the congregation's ministry, and professional memberships in organizations related to the ministry, such as the clergy associations and clergy meetings.

The Diocese of Maryland Warden's Handbook says, " Church Canon requires that the loose or open offering from one Sunday per month be set-aside for the Fund." At St. James, the unpledged offering on the first Sunday of the month is designated for the Rector's discretionary fund.

In addition, honorariums from weddings and funerals are deposited into the fund of the officiating clergy. Members of the parish may, and often do, make gifts into the discretionary funds of their clergy. Discretionary funds are included in the congregation's annual audit, giving proper respect to matters of confidentiality.

Conferences and Convention expenses for St. James include the clergy and lay deputies Diocesan Convention expenses and the Clergy Conference, attendance at both are required for by church Canons for the governance of the diocese. Other conferences are primarily for educational purposes to ensure that clergy and lay leaders are equipped for their ministries, Examples, Godly Play training, preaching seminars, clergy leadership training, etc.