

ST. COLUMBA'S
ANNUAL REPORT 2026

Dear friends in Christ,

As we look back on this past year at St. Columba's--my first with you all-- I am filled with gratitude for the abundant ways God's Spirit has been moving in and among us. From moments of quiet faithfulness to bold new steps in ministry, I see the fingerprints of grace woven through our life together. We have welcomed the stranger, deepened our worship, and invested in new beginnings—all as we seek to follow Christ's call to love, serve, and grow.

None of these blessings would be possible without your prayers, your generosity, and your faithfulness to God's vision for our community. Thank you for offering your gifts so freely to this unfolding story. May we celebrate with joy all that God has done, and look forward with hope to the new things the Spirit is leading us toward. Let's keep Living God's Love!

With gratitude and faith,

Hillary

Rector of St. Columba's

Dear Fellow St. Columbans,

The past year was momentous in the life of our parish. In September 2025, we welcomed our new rector Hillary with excitement, high expectations and perhaps even a few "butterflies." One year later, she is clearly our spiritual leader, fully integrated into the life of the congregation. She has delighted us with her warmth and energy, provoked fresh interpretations of how to Live God's Love, and impressed us with her ability to manage a large complex congregation.

We are grateful for the forward movement on pre-existing projects such as Phase 1 of our church renovation and partnerships formed through the Beloved Community Fund, including with St. George's. This year, we've also laid a foundation for future spiritual growth, outreach and justice initiatives, and vibrant community engagement. We give thanks to God for Hillary and our whole outstanding staff, as well as each unique and special member of our community. We can't wait to see where St. Columba's goes next!

With gratitude,

Gina Lagomarsino & Andrew Marshall

Wardens





More Than a Job, A Calling to Ministry

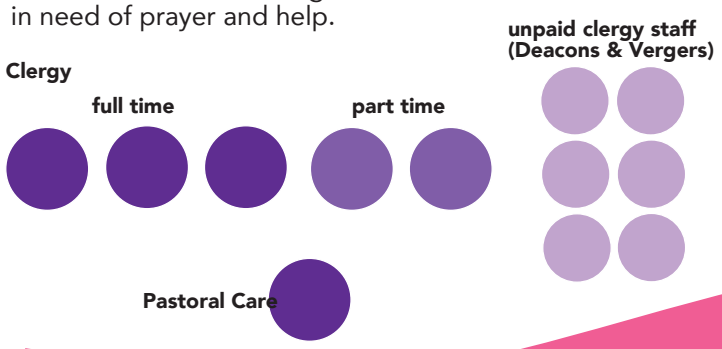
One of the greatest blessings of St. Columba's is the extraordinary dedication of our staff. While each person has a specific role, the reality is that every member of our team wears many hats, working across ministries to ensure that our worship is inspiring, our programs flourish, our buildings are welcoming, our communications are clear, our pastoral care is compassionate, and our outreach continues to Live God's Love beyond our walls.

Whether preparing Sunday worship, supporting children and youth, caring for our campus, welcoming newcomers, managing finances, communicating our mission, serving those in need, or responding to the countless moments that arise in parish life, our staff approaches every task with faith, creativity, and grace. Their work often happens quietly, behind the scenes, yet it touches nearly every aspect of our common life. We are deeply grateful for their commitment, flexibility, and joyful spirit. We give thanks for the many ways they help make St. Columba's a place where all are welcomed, nurtured, and sent forth to share Christ's love with the world.



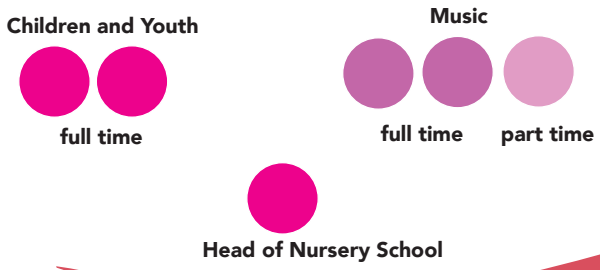
Clergy and Pastoral Care

This team leads all worship: services, sermons and holidays. They perform baptisms, weddings and funerals as well as tending to those who are sick or in need of prayer and help.



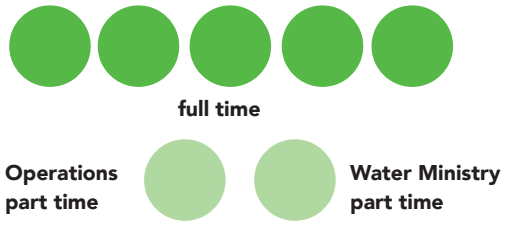
Children, Youth and Music

This team creates and manages all youth and children formation, choirs, music events and youth outreach.



Finance & Operations

This team handles accounting, event scheduling and logistics, outside rental groups, human resources, tax audit and safe church. They also maintain our church campus.



Communications & Development

This team creates and deploys all communications, event publicity, bulletins, signage, livestream, social media, technology and all print needs. They also leads fundraising and stewardship efforts.




St. Columbans enjoy
10,824 +
Donuts each year
Our Driver, Carl, picks up the donuts each week and deliveres them to us, driving
8,000
miles/year.



WORSHIP

Worship is at the heart of our shared life at St. Columba's, gathering us together in prayer, praise, and community 52 Sundays a year and throughout the seasons of the Church. From the joy of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost to the sacred journey of Holy Week, our clergy, musicians, staff, and volunteers create meaningful opportunities for us to encounter God together. Our worship and formation extend beyond Sunday mornings, with Adult Forums offered most Sundays, additional formation on Wednesday evenings, and Wednesday Supper Worship bringing faith and fellowship together around the table. Throughout the year, we also celebrate beloved feast days and traditions, from the Blessing of the Animals for St. Francis to the joyful arrival of St. Nicholas, reminding us that worship at St. Columba's is not simply something we attend on Sunday, but a rhythm of faith, learning, celebration, and connection that carries us through the entire year.

Faith Stories are a powerful reminder of why we are all here together.
Scan to learn more about your fellow St. Columban's faith journeys.

52
weeks per year

Who plays a role each week?

Clergy
Vergers
Sacristins
Acolytes
Music and Choirs
Youth and Children's Ministry
Communications
Member Engagement
Hospitality
Facilities
Operations
Lay Eucharistic Ministers
Lay Readers
Ushers
Altar Guild
Finance and Administration
Flower Guild
Healing Ministers
Seminarians

STAFF INVOLVED

Children & Youth Formation

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world. Amen.



Last year we started **Godly Play** Children's Sunday Forum with 7 storytellers and 3 classrooms and 35 kids - helping kids learn the language of faith through storytelling, wondering and play.

Prayer Partners connected 12 kids with adults to meet weekly for a quick check in and prayer together. Several relationships are moving into their 3rd year!

We held 7 services designed for families/intergenerational participation

St. Francis · St. Nick · Epiphany · Ash Wednesday · Maundy Thursday · Good Friday · Rogation Day

66 **Youth registered for formation and choir**
(60 registered in 2025) +6

24 **Youth Attended SCAP**
(18 attended in 2025) +6

24 **Chilis in the Chili Cook-off**
(17 chilis in 2025) +7

Our Nursery School is at **100% enrollment** and has made safety upgrades to the St. C's playground

We baptized 23 people!



Scan for more on SCAP

STAFF INVOLVED



Pastoral Care

Pastoral care, provided by our clergy and lay ministers, is essential to how we nurture our parish community by offering emotional, social, and spiritual support.

We support parishioners during times of transition, illness, isolation, and moments of joy through:

Prayer

Eucharistic Visits: Delivering communion

Support Groups: Space for processing shared life experiences

Stephen Ministry: One-on-one compassionate, confidential caregiving

Practical Care: Delivering meals and flowers

Flower Delivery, with the support of the **Flower Guild,** arranged, wrote notes and delivered 240 baskets of flowers or plants.

Our **Good Shepherd Ministry** includes 28 volunteers who cook and deliver meals to members of our parish family.

Healing Ministers offer healing prayer twice a month during Sunday services.

St. Columba's has 9 trained **Stephen Ministers.** These SM are paired with care receivers in the community and journey alongside them offering prayer, a listening ear and a trusted companion during life transitions.

Outreach & Social Justice

Living God's Love beyond our walls means putting faith into action. Through partnerships and hands-on ministries, we welcome newcomers, feed our neighbors, advocate for justice, support families, and accompany people through some of life's most challenging circumstances. Together, our outreach extends compassion, dignity, and hope throughout our community.

Supporting Immigrant Families
Partnering with the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and providing nearly 300 bags of groceries each month to families served by San Mateo Episcopal Church.

Addressing Hunger
Through Water Ministry, Loaves and Fishes, Grate Patrol, and Friendship Place.

Advocating for Justice
Working with the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) on equitable policies and affordable housing.

Supporting Stable Housing
Repairing homes through Rebuilding Together and supporting families at Brooks Family Shelter.

Walking with Incarcerated Neighbors
Serving incarcerated youth and adults and supporting returning citizens through Prison Ministry.

Strengthening Families
Partnering with Samaritan Ministry and DC127, including the new Kids Day Out program for children in foster care.

Commmitment to Becoming Anti-racist
We remain committed to becoming an antiracist church, deepening that work through Stirring the Waters, the Antiracism Task Force, and formation opportunities such as Sacred Ground that invite us to learn and reflect.



We were able to welcome **The Rev. Joy Carroll Wallis** onto our staff to work with Justice, Advocacy, and Community Engagement!

Refugee Response Ministry

RRM continues to welcome the stranger, walking alongside refugee families as they build lives of stability, independence, and hope.

Supporting six Afghan families and one Somali refugee

Helping with housing, employment, healthcare, language skills, and youth opportunities

Celebrating milestones including a new baby, high school graduation, career advancement, and successful resettlement

Providing critical assistance as families face reductions in medical and nutrition benefits

Water Ministry



Beloved Community

The Beloved Community Fund grew from St. Columba's commitment to becoming anti-racist and turned that understanding into meaningful action. Rooted in our Christian call to reconciliation, the Fund allows us to move beyond acknowledging past harm toward repair, relationship, and a more just future.

St. George Grant

St. Columba's awarded the first Beloved Community Fund grant to St. George's Episcopal Church, a historically Black congregation in Washington, DC. The grant is both an act of repair for a historic wrong and the beginning of a renewed relationship rooted in reconciliation, friendship, and shared ministry.



$165,000
committed to St. George's over four years

This Grant:

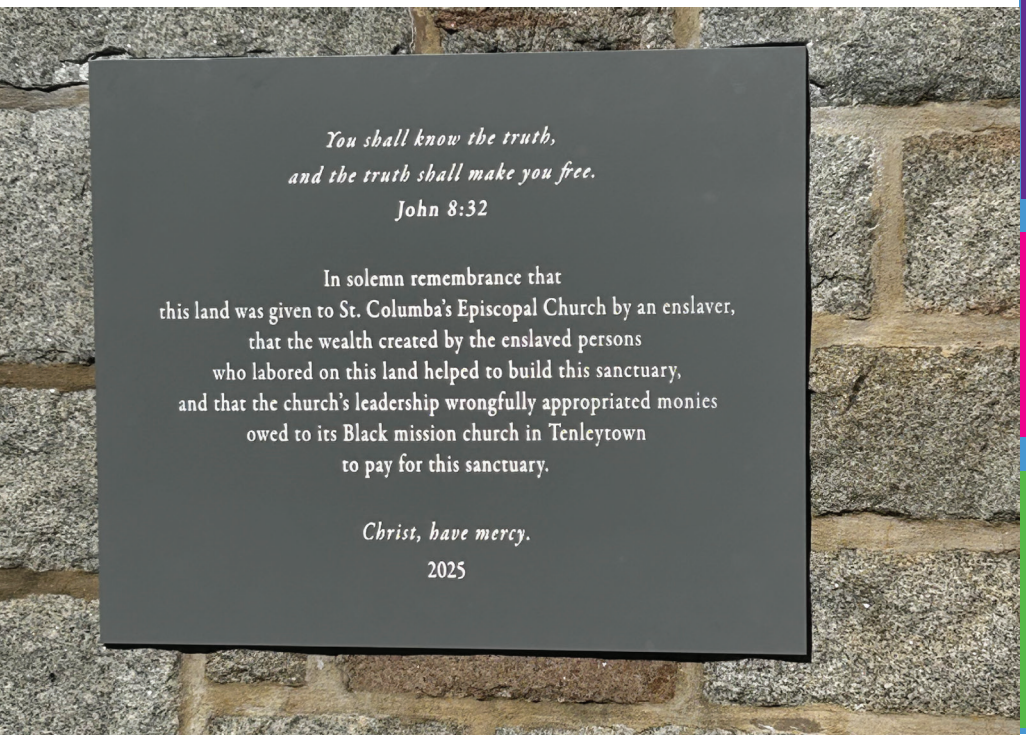
Builds a new relationship between our two congregations.

Creates opportunities for shared ministry serving refugees and people experiencing hunger and homelessness.

All of this work is possible because of your generosity in the Capital Campaign.

Thank you.

In Lent, a service of Lamentation and Dedication was held to mark the installation of this plaque on the front of the church. It names the historic injustices that our church has benefited from, our confession of sin, and our call to reconciliation.





Emma's Torch Grant

For more than a decade, St. Columba's Refugee Response Ministry has helped refugee families build new lives in our community. Now, a $100,000 grant from the Beloved Community Fund is deepening our partnership with Emma's Torch, which provides refugees, asylees, and survivors of human trafficking with culinary training and pathways to meaningful careers.

This is radical hospitality in action—moving beyond welcome to create pathways toward stability, independence, and belonging.

100%
of participants referred by St. Columba's have graduated and are now employed

90%+
Emma's Torch graduation rate

80%+
Emma's Torch job placement rate

Music Programs

Gracious and loving God, you have woven music into the fabric of creation, setting the stars in their courses and placing songs of praise upon the lips of your people. Amen.

150 **Musicians**

4,563 **Hours of Vocal Instruction**

Over 150 singers, ringers, and musicians participate in our music program. In addition to the St. Columba Singers, Gallery, Children's, and Primary Choirs, we have two handbell ensembles, a chamber orchestra, and a Daytime Singers group who meet to enjoy the benefits of singing in community without the pressure of having to perform.

Some special events from the music program include: our well attended **Kids for Kids** program. The performance brought together young musicians, singers, and dancers from the DC area to raise money for the Bishop Walker School.

The popular **New Year's Eve Concert** where music, classic to modern, was performed for a packed house.

A Free **Summer Concert Series** in our Courtyard brought out people from across the city.

Celebrations for **Diane Heath's 30 years** of music ministry and retirement. The music program held parties in her honor, and collected donations for a gift of thanks.



STAFF INVOLVED



Phase one of our Capital Construction project is nearing completion!

Phase one includes: safety upgrades to the playground, a new Great Hall kitchen and new front stairs!

Phase Two begins next summer, bringing an inviting new entrance on Butterworth, enhanced facilities for our Water Ministry, and a refreshed Great Hall—creating more welcoming and functional spaces for ministry, fellowship, and service.

Thank you for fufilling your Capital Campaign pledges

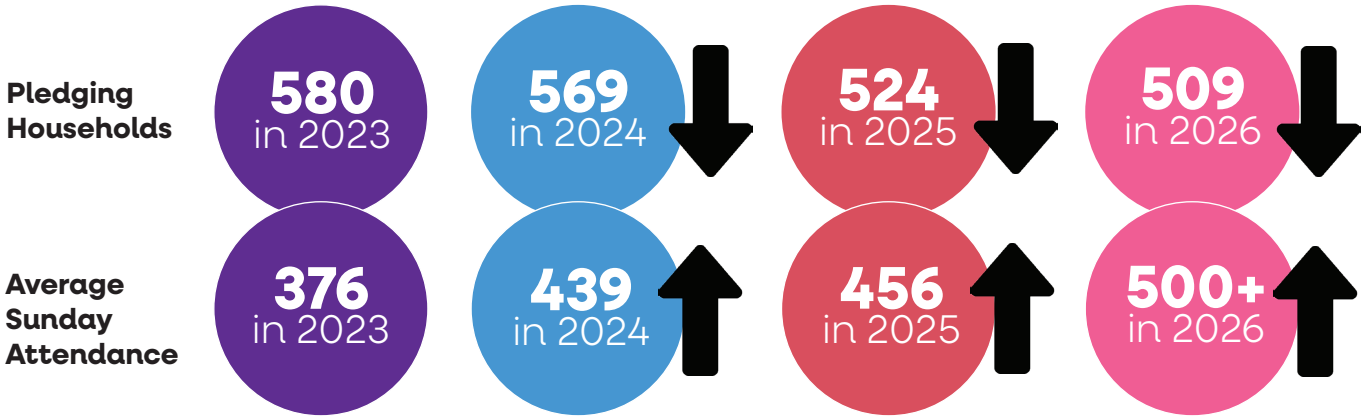
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We are grateful for your generosity.

A Season of Honest Stewardship

We came through the pandemic; and we thrived. Your faithful support, along with extraordinary contributions from a small group of parishioners, helped St. Columba's continue worshiping, serving, and growing through an unprecedented time.

But our giving has not kept pace with our growth. In recent years, the number of households making an annual pledge has declined, even as our Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) has increased. Today, our challenge, and opportunity, is to invite more of our growing community to invest in the mission and ministry we share.





How have you supported our mission through the years?

We adapted and stayed connected.
When the pandemic closed our doors, we found new ways to worship, connect, and care for one another.

We invested instead of standing still.
We restored the Nave and strengthened our digital, sound, and video ministries for a changing Church.

Your generosity carried us through.
Special campaigns and extraordinary giving sustained our ministry and helped us continue serving our neighbors.

We emerged stronger.
Worship continued, outreach expanded, and our community grew.



We are so grateful for your generosity in the Capital Campaign.
We are deeply grateful for the extraordinary generosity of the Capital Campaign; however, those gifts do not fund our annual operating budget or ongoing outreach ministries. It is our annual pledges that sustain the day-to-day mission and ministry of St. Columba's each year.

We must take the next faithful step.

The extraordinary resources that carried us through a season of uncertainty have come to an end, and in recent years our annual stewardship has not fully met the needs of our shared ministry. This is a moment to faithfully tend to what has been entrusted to us—to strengthen our financial foundation and align our annual giving with the ministry God has called us to share. With our house in order, we can turn our hearts toward what comes next: dreaming forward with hope, discerning where the Holy Spirit is leading, and growing into the church God is calling St. Columba's to be.

Our Pledges Budget At A Glance

	Goal:	Pledge Total:	Unfufilled Pledges:	Adjusted Total:	
2023	$2,610,510	$2,607,195	$3,314	$2,603,881	Additional funding through special campaigns
2024	$2,741,036	$2,708,808	$32,227	$2,676,581	
2025	$2,741,036	$2,575,637	$165,398	$2,410,247	
2026	$2,741,036	$2,527,277	Unknown	Unknown	No additional funds

Why are pledges unfufilled?
While many faithful intend to fulfill their pledges, life's unexpected challenges, illness, job changes, family responsibilities, or financial hardship can sometimes make it difficult to do so. We receive these circumstances with compassion and grace, while recognizing that every fulfilled pledge strengthens our shared ministry and our ability to live God's love in the world.



Where We Are Being Led

The Center for Creative Resilience: Underground Seminary is a pioneering, semester-long program for those seeking a deeper and more integrated experience of Christian spirituality, theological exploration, and social engagement. Part sanctuary and part living laboratory, the program brings ancient Christian wisdom into conversation with the challenges of our time—helping participants cultivate a deeper inner life while discovering creative, faithful ways to bring about meaningful change in the world.

Participants will:

Deepen their spiritual lives through contemplative practice, Christian mysticism, and ancient wisdom traditions.

Explore theology in new ways, engaging Scripture, Biblical Wisdom and prophetic traditions, modern mystics, and contemporary thought.

Connect contemplation with action, examining how spiritual practice can shape our response to injustice and the needs of our communities.

Build resilience for a changing world, drawing on spirituality, positive psychology, and practices that nurture courage, wisdom, and hope.

Engage faith as a living practice, moving beyond study alone to explore how Christianity can inspire meaningful action and transformation.

Become part of an evolving community committed to contemplation, justice, creativity, and discovering what faithful Christian life can look like in our time.



Introducing the MARGARET GUENTHER Lecture Series

This year, we are delighted to launch the Margaret Guenther Lecture Series, honoring Margaret's legacy of thoughtful theology, spiritual formation, and faithful discipleship at St. Columba's. We are thrilled to welcome acclaimed author, speaker, and theologian Diana Butler Bass as our inaugural speaker. This new series will invite our parish and wider community into meaningful conversations that deepen faith, inspire curiosity, and help us engage the questions shaping our lives and our world.


Our **Iona Planned Giving Society** continues to grow in membership.
We are **building capacity** for the future through the formation of our new Strategic Stewardship and Mission Committee and Long-Term Visioning Building and Grounds Committee.
They will help us steward our resources wisely, plan faithfully, and prepare for the ministry God is calling us toward.



LOVE
BETWEEN AND BEYOND US
With Open Hearts and Grateful Spirits, We Dream Forward.

Imagine What More We Can Do Together

2027 Pledge Goal: $2,890,000

The extraordinary resources that sustained us through uncertain times (a series of strategic asks, small side campaigns, and government covid assistance) have come to an end, and our annual giving has not kept pace with the needs of our growing ministry. Now is the time to strengthen our foundation so we can dream forward with hope, follow where the Holy Spirit is leading, and grow into the church God is calling St. Columba's to be.

Reaching our pledge goal will take all of us.

To fully support the ministry we share, we need more households to make a pledge at a level that is meaningful and sustainable for them—and we need those who are able, to consider increasing their pledge. Every new pledge strengthens our community, and every increase helps close the gap between where we are today and what it truly takes to sustain our worship, formation, outreach, staff, and care for one another.

2026 Annual Stewardship Campaign

Level of giving by number of households

Annual Pledge	Households	% of Pledgers	Total Pledged	% of Pledge Dollars
Under $2,000	193	37.8%	$171,325.99	6.8%
$2,000–$4,999	151	29.6%	$451,852.00	17.9%
$5,000–$9,999	100	19.6%	$657,486.52	26.0%
$10,000–$14,999	28	5.5%	$314,780.00	12.4%
$15,000–$29,999	29	5.7%	$585,633.24	23.1%
$30,000 & up	9	1.8%	$349,000.00	13.8%

Our giving chart reminds us that there is no single "right" level of generosity. Some households can give $1,000; others $5,000, $15,000, or more. **What matters is that we participate together.**

When each of us gives faithfully according to our circumstances, our individual gifts become something much greater: the shared resources that allow St. Columba's to Live God's Love within our walls and far beyond them.



Your individual stretch becomes transformational when we all do it together.

Need help calculating your pledge?

Scan to use our Proportional Giving Calculator!

Proportional Giving

Proportional Giving is the practice of offering gifts to God in proportion to our resources and income. It has its roots in the ancient biblical practice of offering a tithe of 10% of our income to God. But in the Episcopal tradition proportional giving is not a requirement or a measure of faithfulness, but a spiritual discipline; it is a way of responding with gratitude to all that God has entrusted to us.

For some, setting their pledge as a proportion of their income is already part of their spiritual practice. For others, the invitation is to grow towards that goal over time, increasing our giving as we are able.

Stewardship asks each of us to prayerfully consider: What has God entrusted to me, and what am I called to give in response?

Discern Your Call to Give

If you are able, prayerfully consider whether you are being called to increase your giving this year. Stewardship is an act of discernment—listening for where God may be calling us to respond with generosity.

The goal is not for every household to give the same amount, but for each of us to give intentionally, prayerfully, and with gratitude for all that God has entrusted to us.

Annual Income	2%	5%	7%	10% Tithe
$50,000	$1,000	$2,500	$3,500	**$5,000**
$75,000	$1,500	$3,750	$5,250	**$7,500**
$100,000	$2,000	$5,000	$7,000	**$10,000**
$150,000	$3,000	$7,500	$10,500	**$15,000**
$200,000	$4,000	$10,000	$14,000	**$20,000**
$250,000	$5,000	$12,500	$17,500	**$25,000**
$300,000	$6,000	$15,000	$21,000	**$30,000**
$400,000	$8,000	$20,000	$28,000	**$40,000**

What Could a Small Increase Make Possible?

Consider Your Next Faithful Step

A 10% or 15% increase may feel significant when viewed annually, but broken down month by month, it can become a more attainable stretch. When many households take that step together, those individual increases can make significantly more ministry possible.

Current Annual Pledge	10% Increase	Additional / Month	15% Increase	Additional / Month
$2,000	$2,200	+$16.67	$2,300	+$25.00
$5,000	$5,500	+$41.67	$5,750	+$62.50
$8,000	$8,800	+$66.67	$9,200	+$100.00
$10,000	$11,000	+$83.33	$11,500	+$125.00