

Giving with Grateful and Generous Hearts



Our response to God's grace and abundance

Grace Episcopal Church
Southgate, Michigan
2008

Welcome on the journey...

Grace Episcopal Church is a place where the Holy Spirit is alive and well, working through and among us to accomplish God's incredible vision. Our ministries are thriving and our facility has never looked better.

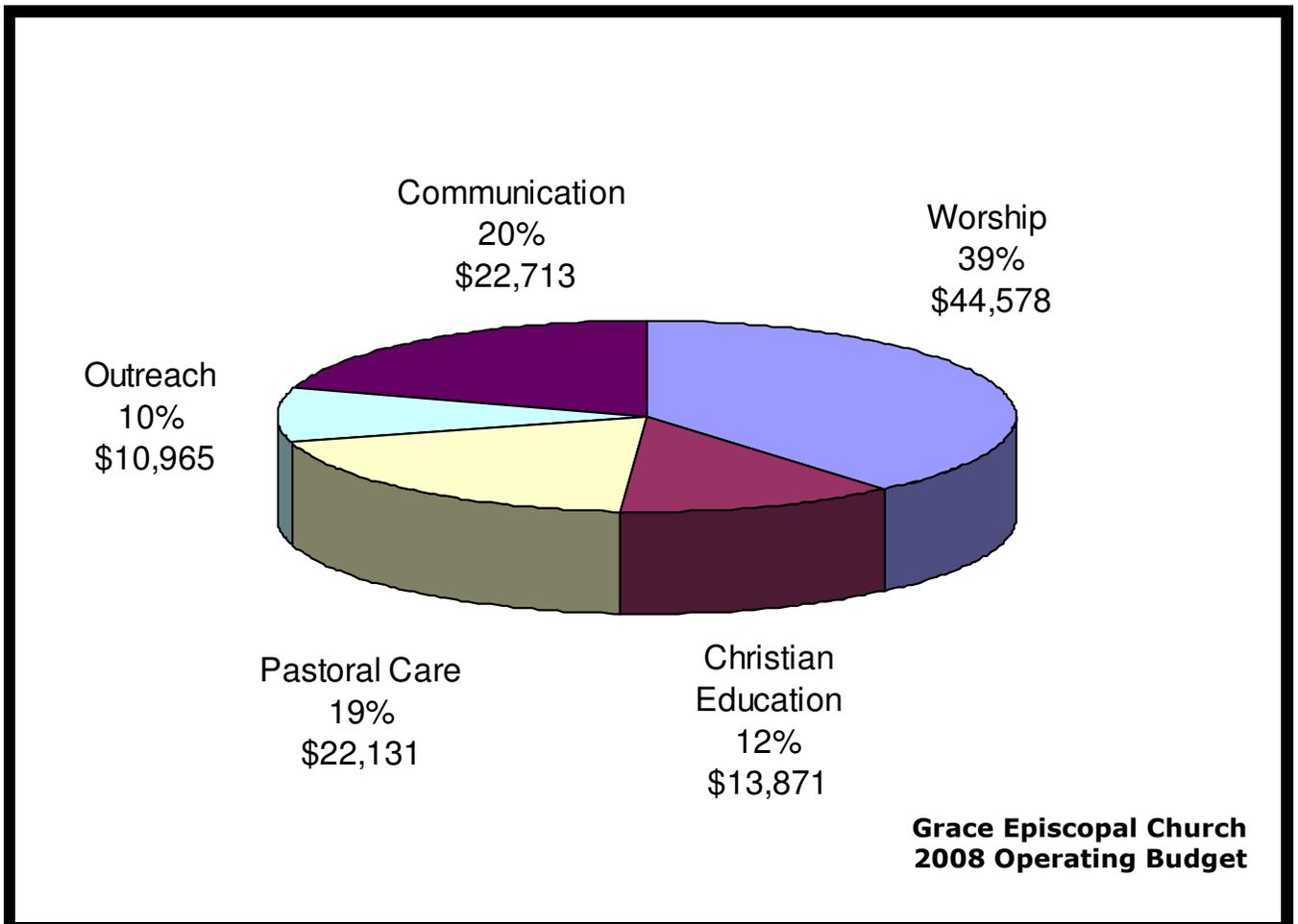
This presentation is intended to convey a real picture of what we are doing through the generosity of our members and friends. We have demonstrated in graphic and narrative form the areas of ministry in which we are currently actively involved.

Also, take note of the **what's next?** list next to the fork icon. Why a fork? Keep reading...



fork

in 2008, here is how grace put your contributions to work!



A Letter From Your Rector

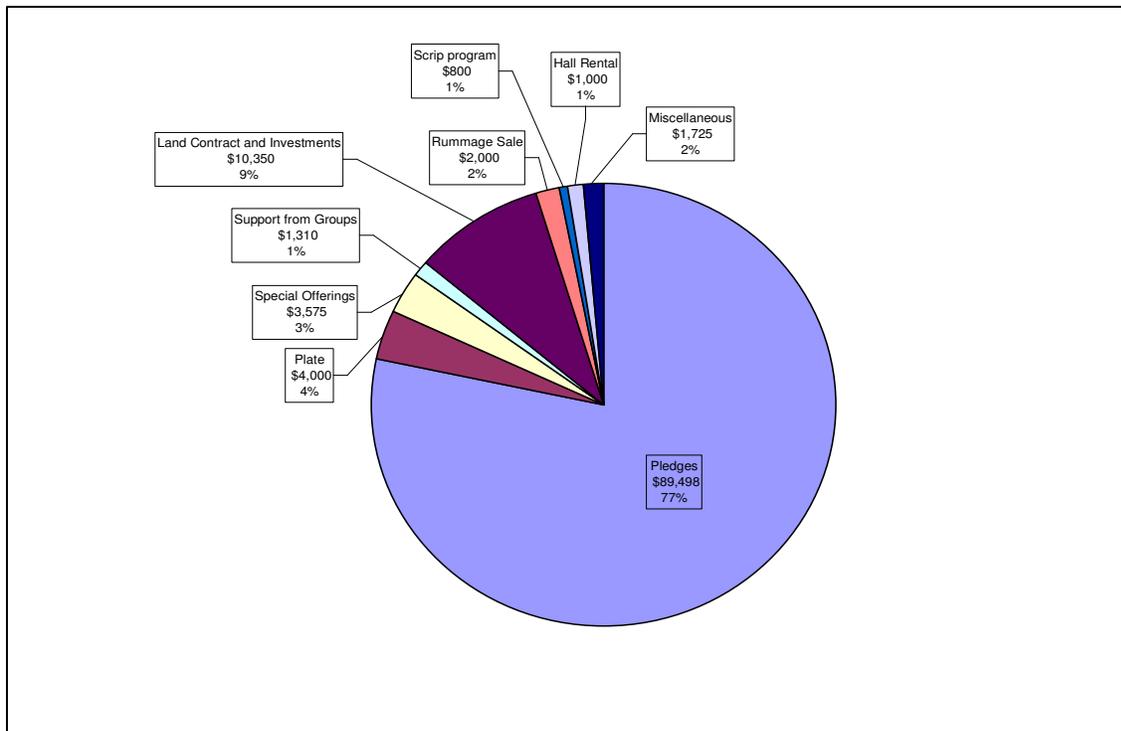
Here is your opportunity to share your journey with your congregation. Let them know how important stewardship is to you. Demonstrate your commitment to prayerful, faithful and sacrificial discernment of your gift to the church.

Model for others the journey of stewardship.

Tell your people about the ministry initiatives you and your vestry will pursue when funds are available. Share the parish's vision for ministry and your enthusiasm for it!

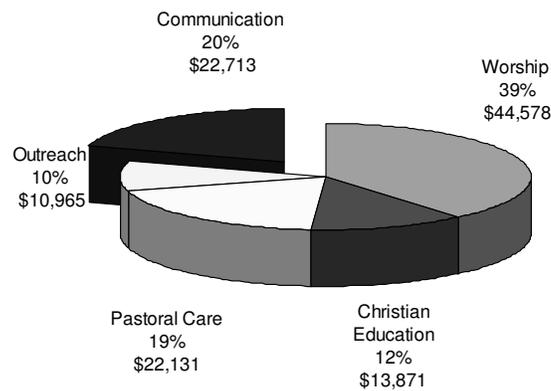
Include your photo.

Grace Episcopal Church 2008 Revenue Sources



Communication

Good communications is critically important to the life of our congregation and currently accounts for 20% of our total operating expenses. As the generational make-up of our congregation continues to become more diverse, it is important to communicate in a variety of ways. The challenges of our mobile, busy, often-times over-extended lifestyles requires that the church do everything in its power to keep people up-to-date with parish activities and ways in which people can participate. This includes our website, newsletter, bulletins, and all other vehicles for keeping in touch.



what's next?



- Let people know what's next?
- What will you do with the increase in giving?
- Why should people support this effort?
- Include associated costs, if known.



Knowing what activities and opportunities are available at St. John's is important to my busy family. Even though we can't take advantage of every opportunity, it is great to know everything that is happening!
Sally Churchwoman



Spiritual Formation for Children

- Christian Education Coordinator, part-time
- Childcare for infants and toddlers
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Godly Play
- Music Ministry

Spiritual Formation for Youth

- All Things New
- Rite 13
- Journey to Adulthood
- The Young Adults in Church
- Music Ministry
- Diocesan summer camping program
- The Happening



Christian Education



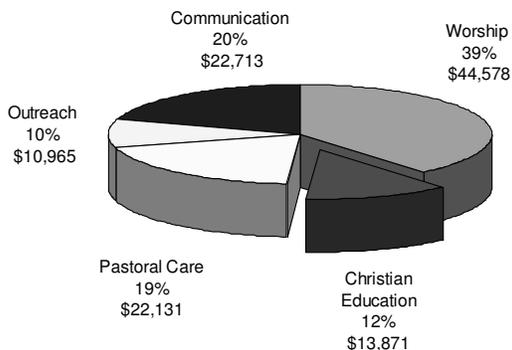
Spiritual Formation for Adults

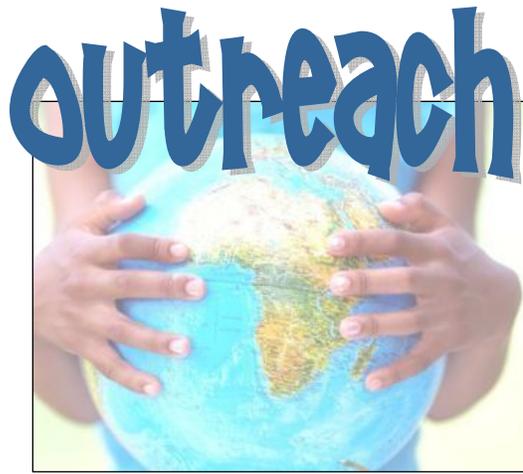
- Weeknight Bible Study and special programs
- Adult Sunday morning forums: Spiritual, Cultural and Social issues
- Inquirers' Class

What's next?



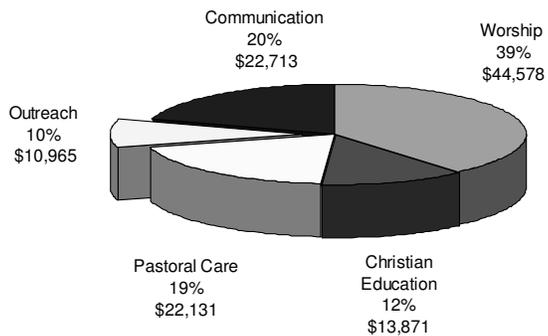
- What plans do you have for new programming or new ministries to address the needs of children, youth and adults?
- Why should people support this?
- What will it cost?





As an expression of our faith, we have chosen to contribute 10% of operating revenues to outreach. The projects to which we have committed include:
 INSERT YOUR LIST HERE!

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart... it is the Lord Christ you are serving."
 Colossians 3:23-24



what's next?

- you know what to do...let people know what you are thinking about doing when resources are available to do so!
- tell them grace's vision for outreach ministry in the future...
- don't be shy

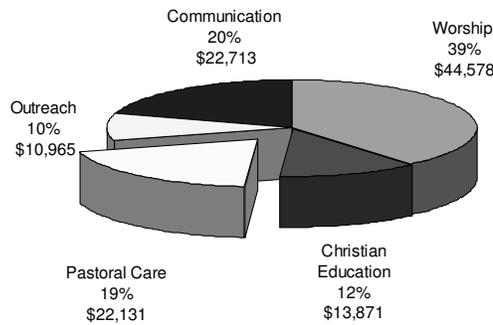
Pastoral Care

Taking care of those in need is one of our most important activities. From taking Holy Communion to our shut-ins to providing prayer support and counseling to those who are ill or in crisis, our ongoing care exemplifies our Christian community.

Lay and clergy provide pastoral care in the following ways:



- Bereavement counseling
- Funeral services
- Pre-marital counseling
- Small group ministries
- Baptisms
- Confirmation
- Daughters of the King



- Visiting shut-ins
- Providing meals for families in crisis
- Prayer chain



what's next?

- list
- cool
- stuff
- here

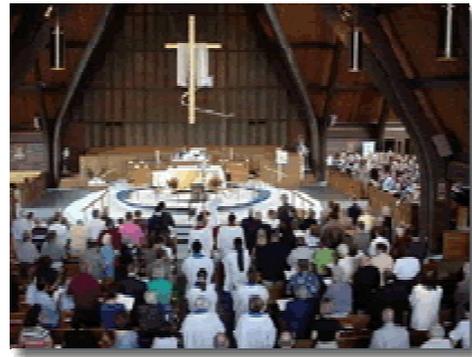
Worship



The most significant part of our ministry funding goes toward worship. Our expressions of worship are as diverse as our members with a variety of songs of praise and worship styles.

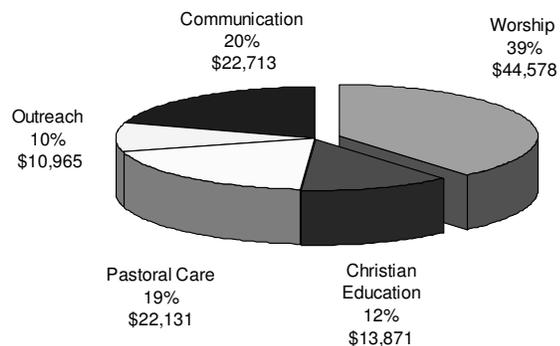
Acolytes • Altar Guild • Bishop Visitation • Lay Readers •

Weekly healing service • Celebration of Holy Days • Chancel Choir • Blessing of the Animals • Weddings • Funerals • Baptisms • Nursery attendants • Visitor and Member-friendly worship bulletins • Torch bearer • Communion bread bakers • Oblationers • Greeters



what's next?

- List
- More
- Here



A Message From your Stewardship Chair or Senior Warden:

Include your photo

stewardship statement

Explain the significance of your stewardship statement. What does it mean to the vestry and/or stewardship committee? How would you like others to respond?

Stewardship is a Lifelong Journey

A Suggestion for Beginning the Journey

- Calculate your annual household income
- Write down your current annual pledge to the church
- Calculate the percent of income you are currently giving to the church.
- Consider what gift (or percent of your income) would bring you joy.

More Food for Thought

- On an annual basis, how much does your household spend on _____?
(Insert something you consider to be a discretionary expense such as hobbies, entertainment, vacations, etc.)
- What percent of your income do you spend on this item annually?
- Compare this number with the percent given to the church



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

Discovering the Joy of Giving

Becoming a faithful steward of God's abundant blessings, enables us to experience the joy of giving. Some have humorously suggested that we should "give until it hurts", while the discipline of stewardship suggests that we "give until it feels good".

Discovering God's will for our lives and resources is an opportunity for spiritual growth and a deepening of our relationship with God.

What Portion Shall I Give?

By considering our gift to the church as a proportion of income, we establish priorities that reflect our relationship with God. Determining our giving to God through the church requires prayer and faith. Biblical tradition, as well as the teaching of the Episcopal Church, suggests the practice of giving away 10% (a tithe) of our income. For some, it is helpful to calculate the current percent of income given to the church and to grow one or two percent per year until the tithe is reached. As a guide for your stewardship journey, we offer this proportionate giving chart.

Proportional Giving

Annual Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	12%	15%
\$30,000	\$600	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$2,400	\$3,000	\$3,600	\$4,500
\$40,000	\$800	\$1,600	\$2,400	\$3,200	\$4,000	\$4,800	\$6,000
\$50,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,500
\$75,000	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$9,000	\$11,250
\$100,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$15,000
\$125,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$15,000	\$18,750
\$150,000	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$9,000	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$18,180	\$22,500
\$175,000	\$3,500	\$7,000	\$10,500	\$14,000	\$17,500	\$21,000	\$26,250

you want me to do what?

For some, giving back 10% (or more) of their annual household income is a daunting challenge. This is why stewardship is about growth. It encourages us to assess where we are in returning a substantial proportion of our blessings back to God out of gratitude for everything we have been given. It is about finding the level of giving that brings us joy.

Here is a place for closing comments.

Tell people this is an invitation to do more. Let them know how important it is that they are a part of the extraordinary effort.

Give dates/times/specifics of other stewardship activities.

Remind them to be in prayer for the ministries of your parish, as well as for their own response to God's call to stewardship.

Remind them of the joy of giving that comes from responding to God's grace.

oh...and about the fork?



A woman was meeting with her rector to discuss wishes for her funeral services. All arrangements had been faithfully noted in her file, as she had no family left in the area.

"Oh, one last thing," she said, "Make sure to bury me with a fork in my right hand."

"A fork!" the rector exclaimed. "Why a fork?"

"When I was a little girl," she explained, "every night after dinner when we would clear the table, my mother would remind us to keep our forks."

"And?" the rector waited in hope of further explanation.

"Well", she said, "keeping the fork means there is more on the way...in fact, *the best is yet to come.*"

This is to serve as a reminder that we are called to embrace God's vision for our ministry by being open to new and better ways of being God's people. As it was for the woman in the story, the best for Grace is yet to come!

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Your Return Address goes here

