

Our Church

“O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery...”

—Book of Common Prayer

Stewardship

PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE



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PAST

LAST

1866

Beginnings

A handful of Episcopalians gathered in Canon City in 1866 for a celebration of Eucharist by Bishop Randall. In 1871, a group of perhaps 20 met in the home of C. G. Stanley, where the Rev. S.R. Edwards came by carriage from St. Peter's, Pueblo to celebrate Eucharist.

1872

Struggling

That Christ Church community had no church building, they had no funds. The Baptist congregation offered their aid. Their church building was made available for Episcopal services every other Sunday, beginning Jan. 8, 1872.

Reflecting,

I WONDER...

- **What drove those early members of Christ Church to put forth that effort?**
- **How close that community of faith must have been?**
- **What ministries those members performed in their community?**
- **How they cared for each other?**

1877

Christ Church's First Building



A building was built on the SW corner of 5th & Macon as a house of worship for Christ Church. Bishop Spaulding consecrated it on Jan. 25, 1877.

I WONDER...

- **What sacrifices those members of Christ Church made to fund the building of their first house of worship? Stewardship campaign?**
- **How many “hats” each member of that small congregation wore: Vestry, Ushers, Altar Guild, Sunday School Teacher, Choir member? Surely, many gave of their time, talent, and treasure.**

1902

Our present building was built in 1902, with generous donations from members at that time.





*Make a joyful noise to
the Lord.*

-Psalm 98:1

**The
Women's Guild
gave the money
for the pipe organ.**

Sacrificial Giving

*The cost of this building and this pipe organ was substantial!
And not one of us ever had to pay a penny on the mortgage – this building is a total gift from past members of Christ Church.*

I WONDER...

- **How many Committee and Vestry meetings were held before the plans for that new church building were accepted?**
- **How many people donated to the building of this place where we now worship?**

1952

Sunday School

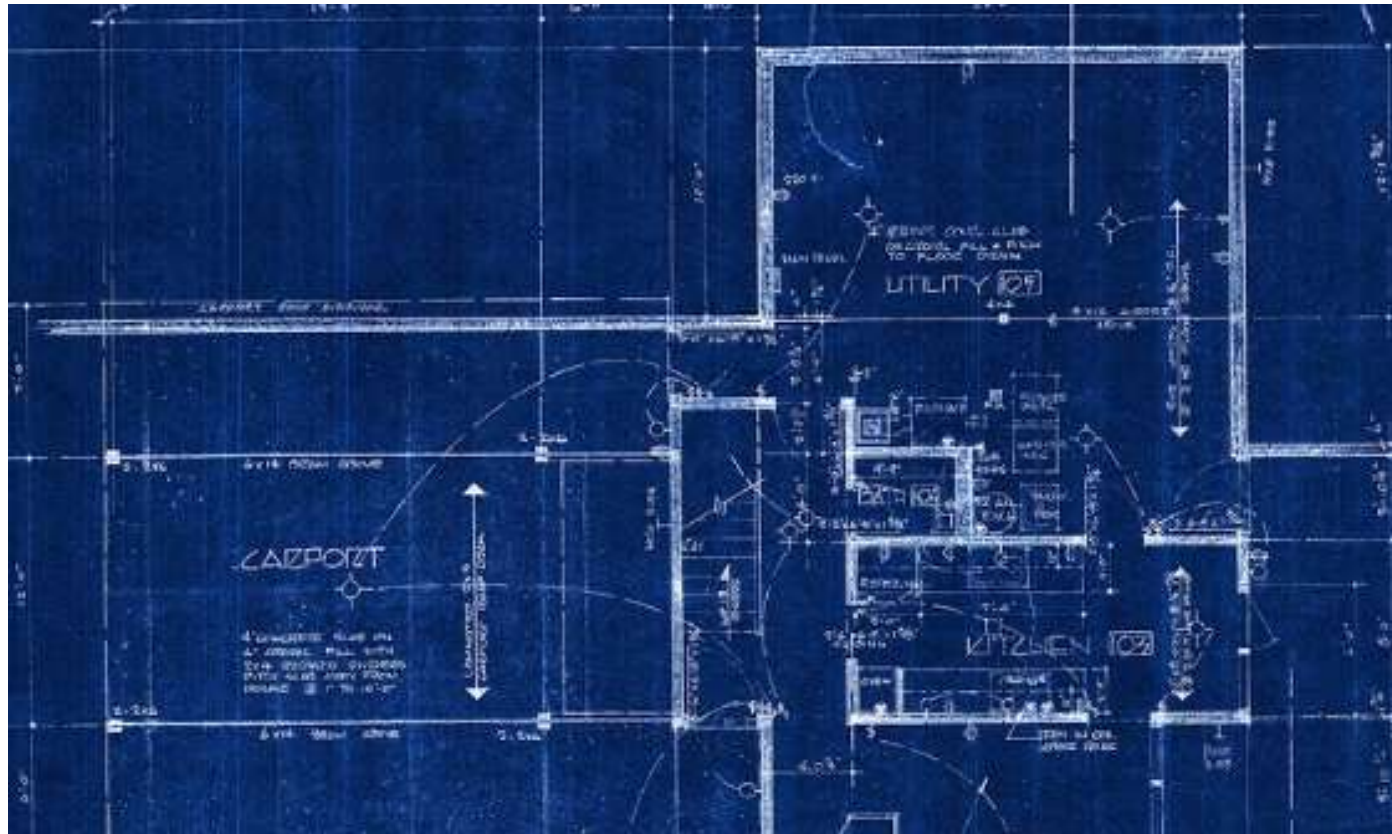
In 1952, the residence to the east of the church building was purchased for Sunday School use and was named “The Little Annex”, honoring W. T. (Doc) Little, Editor of the Daily Record, who had served many years as Sunday School teacher and superintendent for Christ Church.

I WONDER...

How many other prominent citizens of Canon City, down through the years, gave of their time and talents to teach Sunday School in Christ Church?

1940's

In the 1940's, plans had begun for the construction of a new parish hall.



1960

Final plans were approved and our present Parish Hall was built in 1960.



This provided room for fellowship activities, a kitchen and restroom, and Sunday School rooms, and allowed the old parish hall to be converted into our Chapel.

I WONDER...

- **How many people met and planned long hours to arrive at the final plans for our Parish Hall?**
- **How many people sacrificially gave money for the construction of our Parish Hall? Was there a Capital Campaign? How many participated?**

I WONDER...

- **How many Sunday School students were taught in the Little Annex?**
- **How many Sunday School students have been taught in our present Parish Hall basement?**

I WONDER...

- **What difference that Sunday School teaching made in the lives and faith of those students?**
- **What difference that Sunday School teaching made in the lives and faith of those teachers?**

Upkeep and Improvements

Our forebears took care of this building down through the decades, making repairs, adding features (altar, stained glass windows, trumpet pipes, lighting, electrifying organ and purchasing a used console, chimes, columbaria, Stations of the Cross, Chapel improvements, sound system, etc.) and providing maintenance of the boiler, roof, organ, stained glass, etc.

They were good Stewards!

We only have these things today because of those who have gone before us. In addition, they left bequests, from which we have benefitted greatly – and continue to benefit. Some of the things that our forebears, and gifts in memory of forebears, have paid for (and continue to pay for):



Shortfall Covered by Forebears

In the case of costs for yard maintenance and Sunday School curriculum and Nursery attendant, because our Operating Budget is so strapped, these costs – which used to be paid from our Operating Budget – are currently being paid by our forebears and memorial/legacy gifts made in their memory.

Our Christ Church forbears
have showered us with blessings!



*I will send down the showers in their season;
they shall be showers of blessing. -Ezekiel 34:26*

Stewardship

PRESENT

That Wonderful and Sacred *Mystery*

“O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery...”

–Book of Common Prayer

What is this Mystery?



Christ and His Church

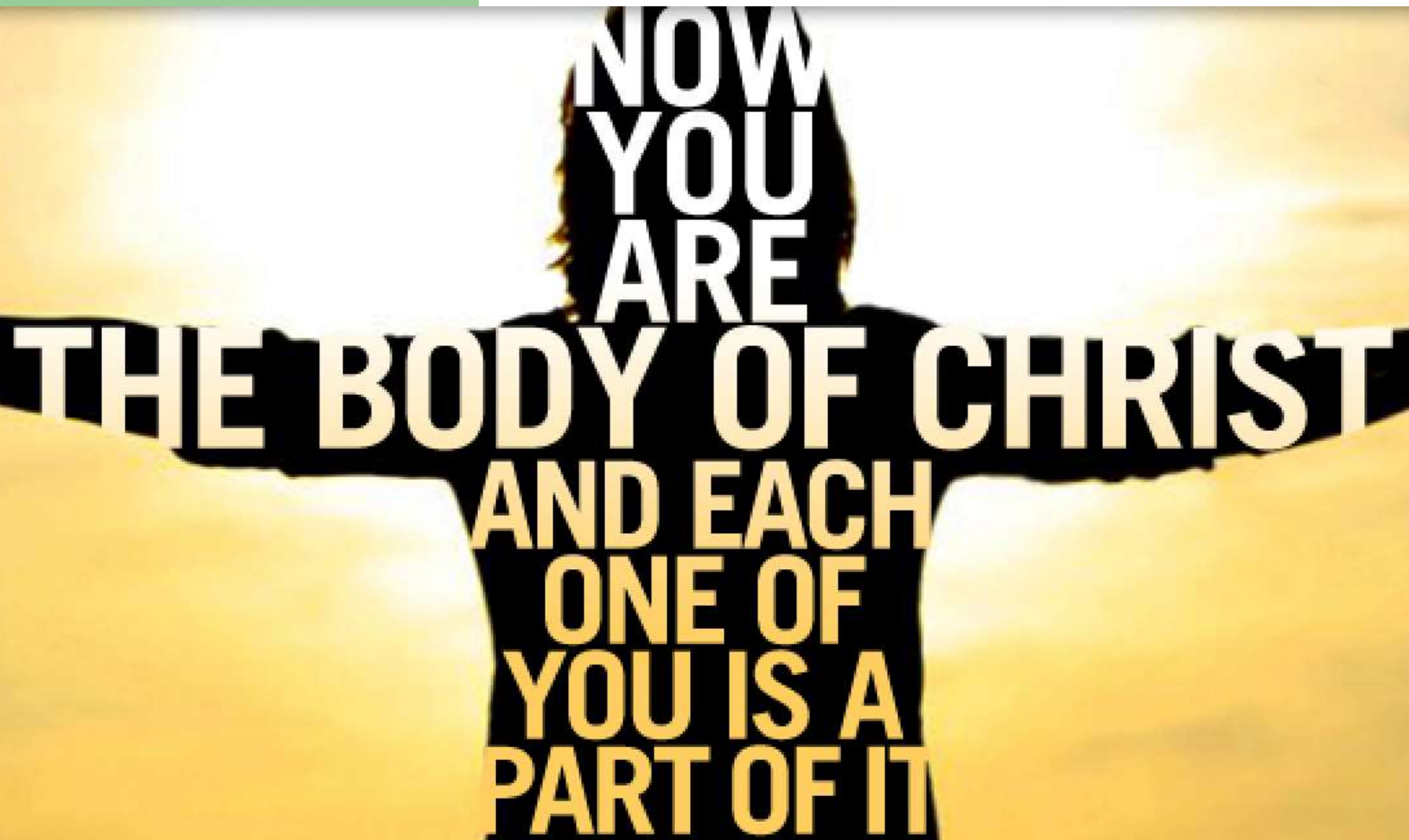
**“This is a great mystery,
but I understand it to
mean Christ and his
church.”**

--Ephesians 5:32



What is the Church?

I am the Church.
You are the Church.
We are the
Church
together.



**NOW
YOU
ARE
THE BODY OF CHRIST
AND EACH
ONE OF
YOU IS A
PART OF IT**

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

“The Church is a

Love Story, *not an Institution.”*

-Pope Francis



I
❤️
MY
CHURCH

*So we, who are many, are one body in Christ,
and individually we are members one of another.*

-Romans 12:5



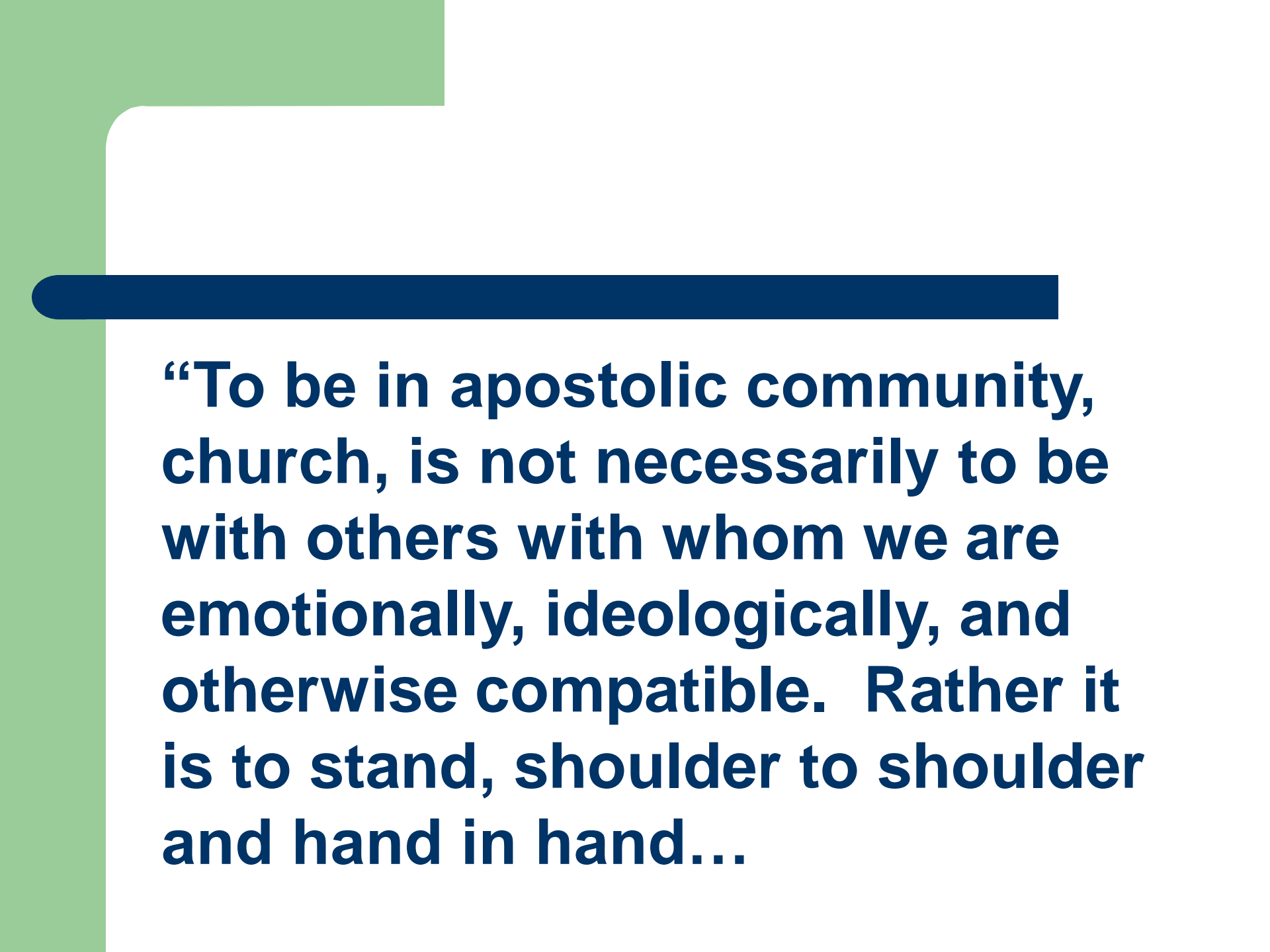
Priest and Author Ronald Rolheiser writes:

"Too often we are disappointed in church because we find there is such a diverse and motley collection of persons, some of whom do not like us and whom we would never pick to be our friends.



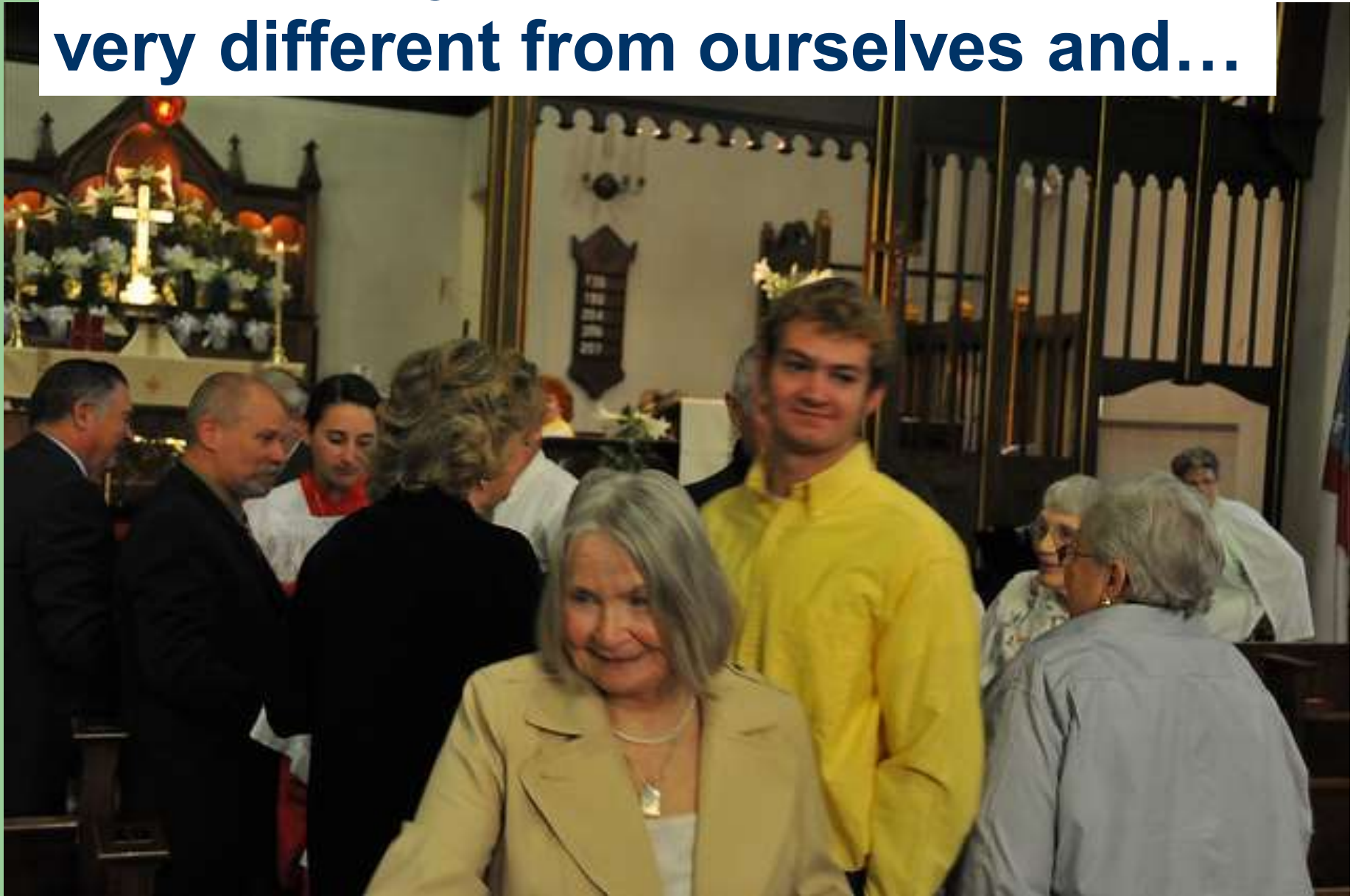
We go to church looking for friendship or ideological soul-mates and, often, do not find them. This does not necessarily mean that there is something wrong with the church, merely that we have false expectations.





“To be in apostolic community, church, is not necessarily to be with others with whom we are emotionally, ideologically, and otherwise compatible. Rather it is to stand, shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand...”

“...precisely with people who are very different from ourselves and...





“with them, hear a common word, say a common creed, share a common bread, and offer a mutual forgiveness so as, in that way, to bridge our differences...



**“...and
become a
common
heart.”**







Marva Dawn writes: “Imagine what would happen if our congregations truly functioned by means of each person offering his or her gifts to the working together of the whole...”



“Ours is a culture of solo efforts...
We don't experience the support that
true community engenders.”



“... stop and think: what would it be like if the Christian Church were truly a community that thoroughly enjoyed being itself?”

From “Truly
The
Community:
Romans 12
and How to Be
the Church”

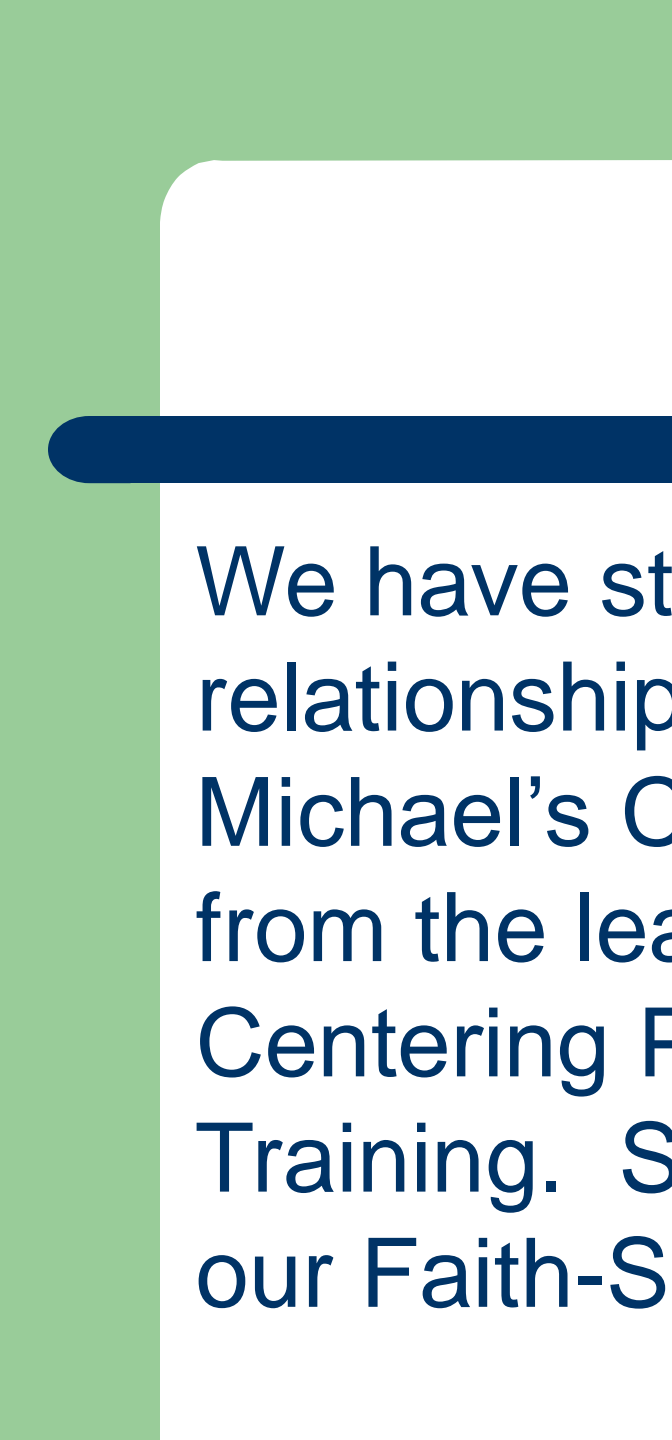




Grief and Growth

We lost 8 important members of our parish family this past year. We are all still feeling those losses.

But we also saw some exciting growth. 15 people were Confirmed or Reaffirmed last Spring; 23 graduated from The Faith-Seeking Journey. Shirley Squier and her volunteers teach a substantial Sunday School class. We have a new FSJ class of 15, and for the first time, we have an Adult Forum, being taught by our own members.

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We have strengthened our relationships with members of St. Michael's Church, and have benefited from the leadership they bring in Centering Prayer and Befrienders' Training. Several are participating in our Faith-Seeking Journey.



We instituted a very successful “Second Sunday Offering” which benefits a different charity each month. This has resulted in a significant increase in our outreach giving.

In the Church, each of us
is responsible for doing our part.

“To each is
given the
manifestation
of the Spirit for
the common
good.

-1 Cor. 12:7





Just as there are bills and responsibilities that come with being a member of a FAMILY...



...there are also bills and responsibilities that come with being a member of a Church family.

Disciples paid for the material support of Jesus and the Apostles.

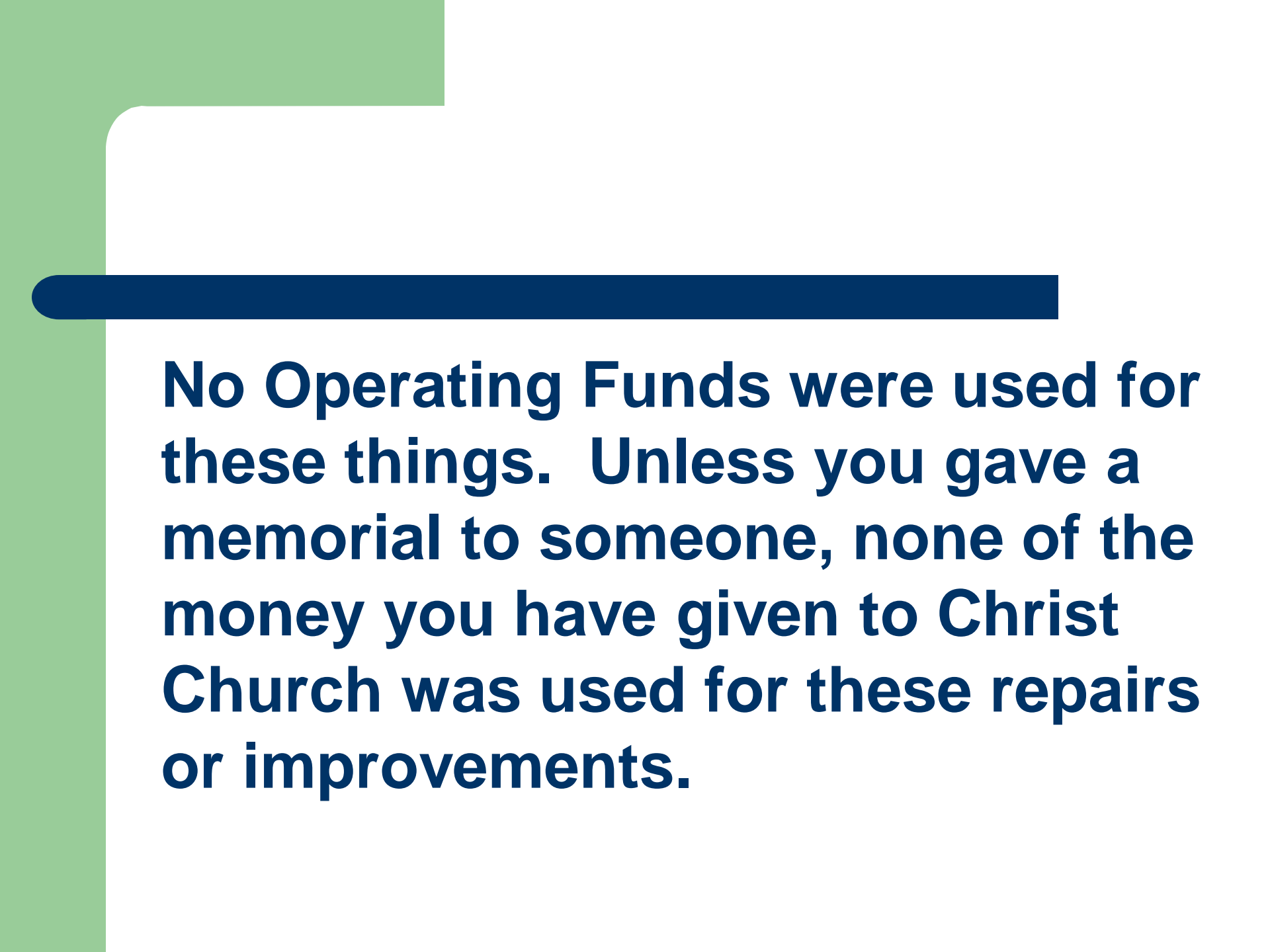
“...Joanna...; Susanna; and many others. These women used their own money to help Jesus and his apostles.” - *Luke 8:3*

“Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you.”

-Romans 16:23

We have already noted that many of our expenditures in recent years have been paid for from bequests left by our forbears or memorials given in their memory. These have included:

- Replacing the Roof
- Sealing the Roof
- Purchasing the Montessori Playground Equipment
- Refurbishing Parish Hall (Restroom, Paint, Carpet)
- New Sound System
- New Lighting in Church
- New Projection Equipment in Church and Chapel



No Operating Funds were used for these things. Unless you gave a memorial to someone, none of the money you have given to Christ Church was used for these repairs or improvements.



You aren't even paying for our Sunday School expenses – they are being paid by funds given by former member Bob Grieve.

Stewardship as a way of life is true and honest to who we are, for we are created in the image of a God whose nature is to give, so that when we are giving we are acting in accord with our truest self.





Only you can prayerfully decide what portion of your charitable giving goes to Christ Church.

In making that prayerful decision, it may help to know some of the facts about what it takes for Christ Church not only to pay its bills, but to grow in Spirit and ministry.

Following are some facts, hopefully arranged in a helpful way, which may help you in your prayerful decision regarding your pledge.



The Data



**When you make a
pledge or put money in
the offering, where
does that money go?**



Percentage of Budget by Category

General Operating: 22%

- Utilities
- Supplies
- Office
- Janitorial
- Kitchen
- Property Insurance
- Maintenance
- Property Taxes
- Advertising

Administration: 65%

- Salaries
- Health
- Insurance
- Pensions
- Payroll Taxes

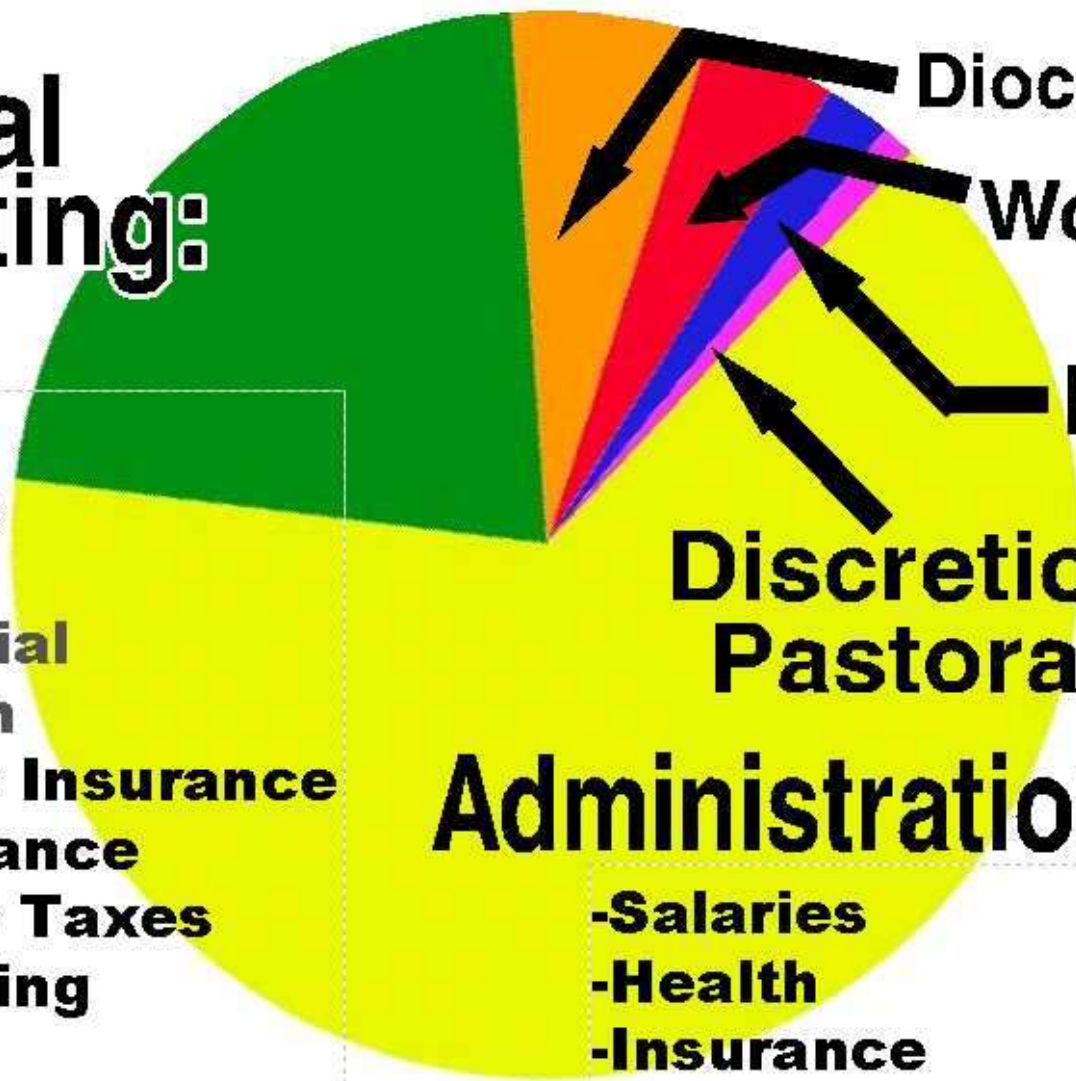
Diocese/Region

Worship: 7%

4%

Formation 2%

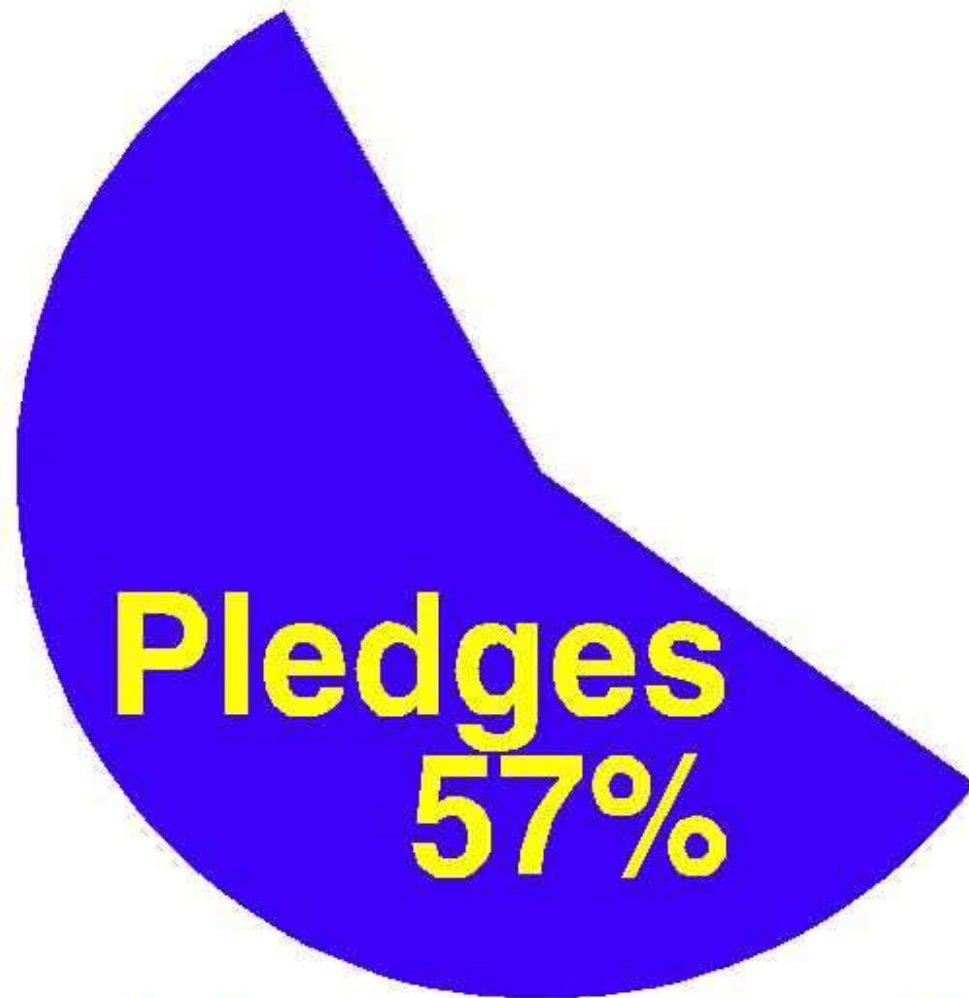
Discretionary/
Pastoral: 1%



*Our Operating Budget for 2014 is
\$167,389.*

*As has been the case for many
years, this budget exceeds our
anticipated income from pledges
and contributions.*

Our 2014 Budget: \$167,389

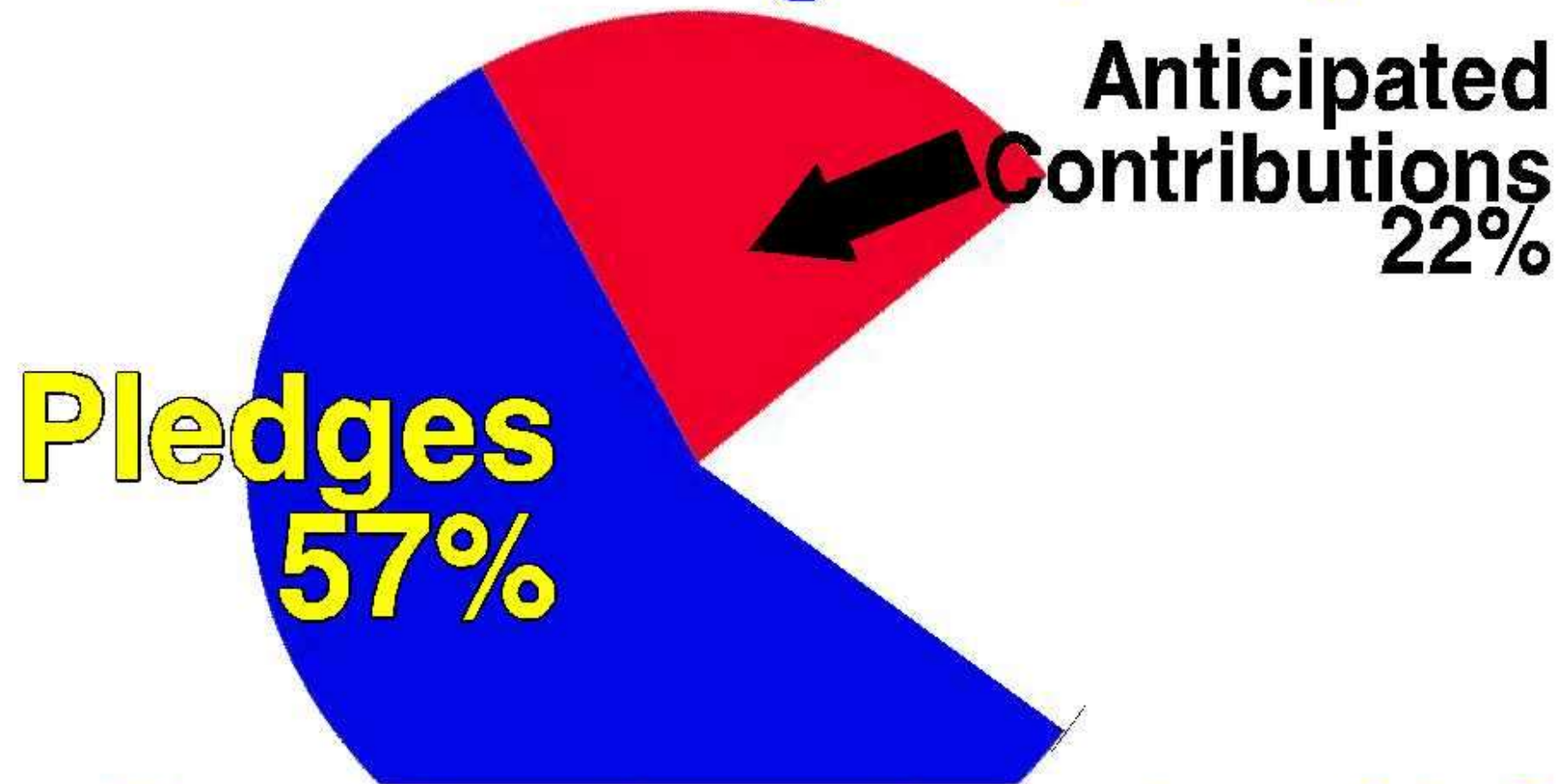


Presently, Pledges cover 57% of our Budget.



How do we make up the shortfall?

Our 2014 Budget: \$167,389



Our Finance Committee, using its Crystal Ball, anticipates that some non-pledging members will give as they have in the past.

This, of course, involves some risk.

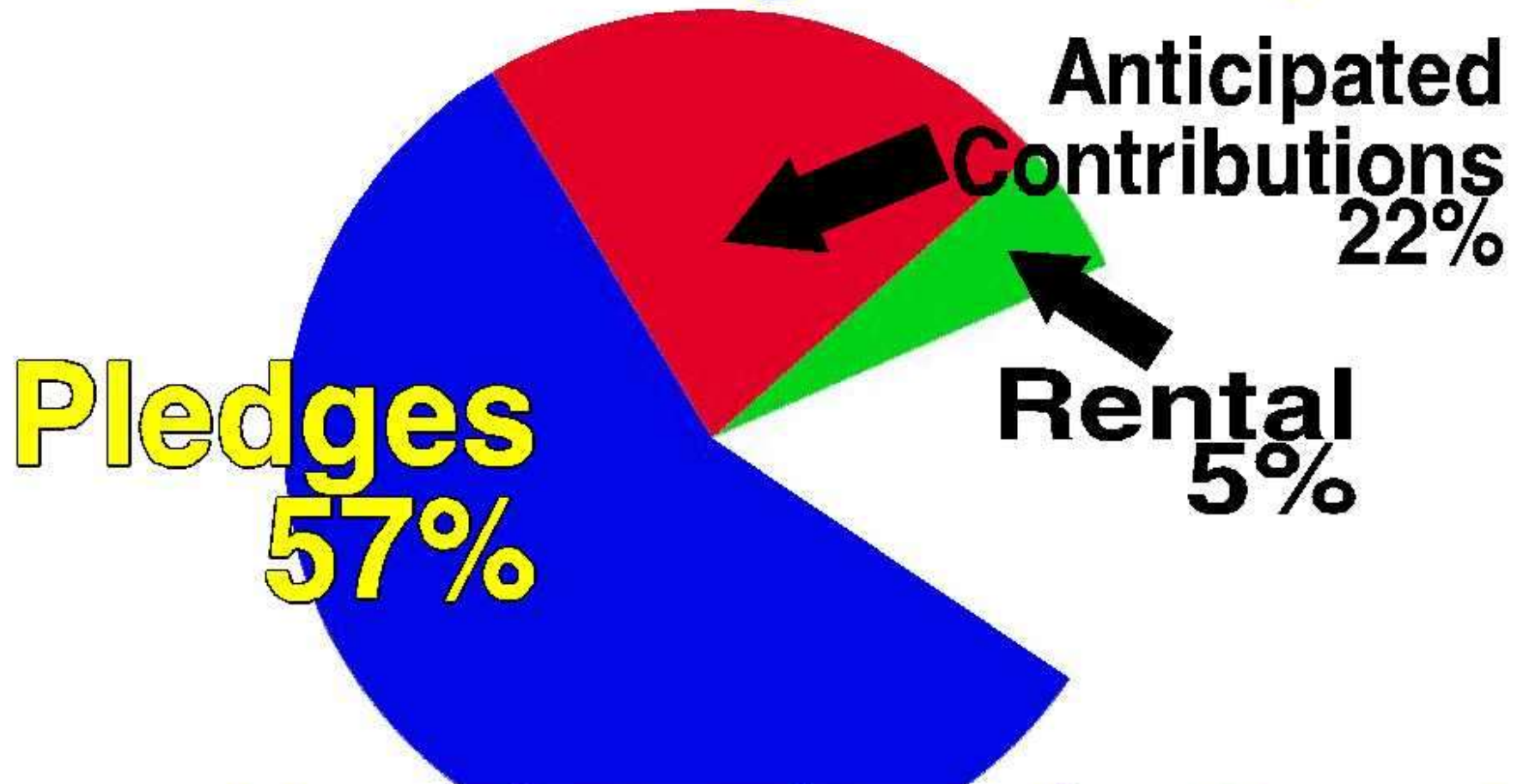
Obviously, *assuming* that someone will give what they have given in the past, when they have not told us, through a pledge, that they would do so, is a bit risky.

This is one of the reasons Pledging is so important.

OK, so we have *Pledges and Anticipated Contributions.*

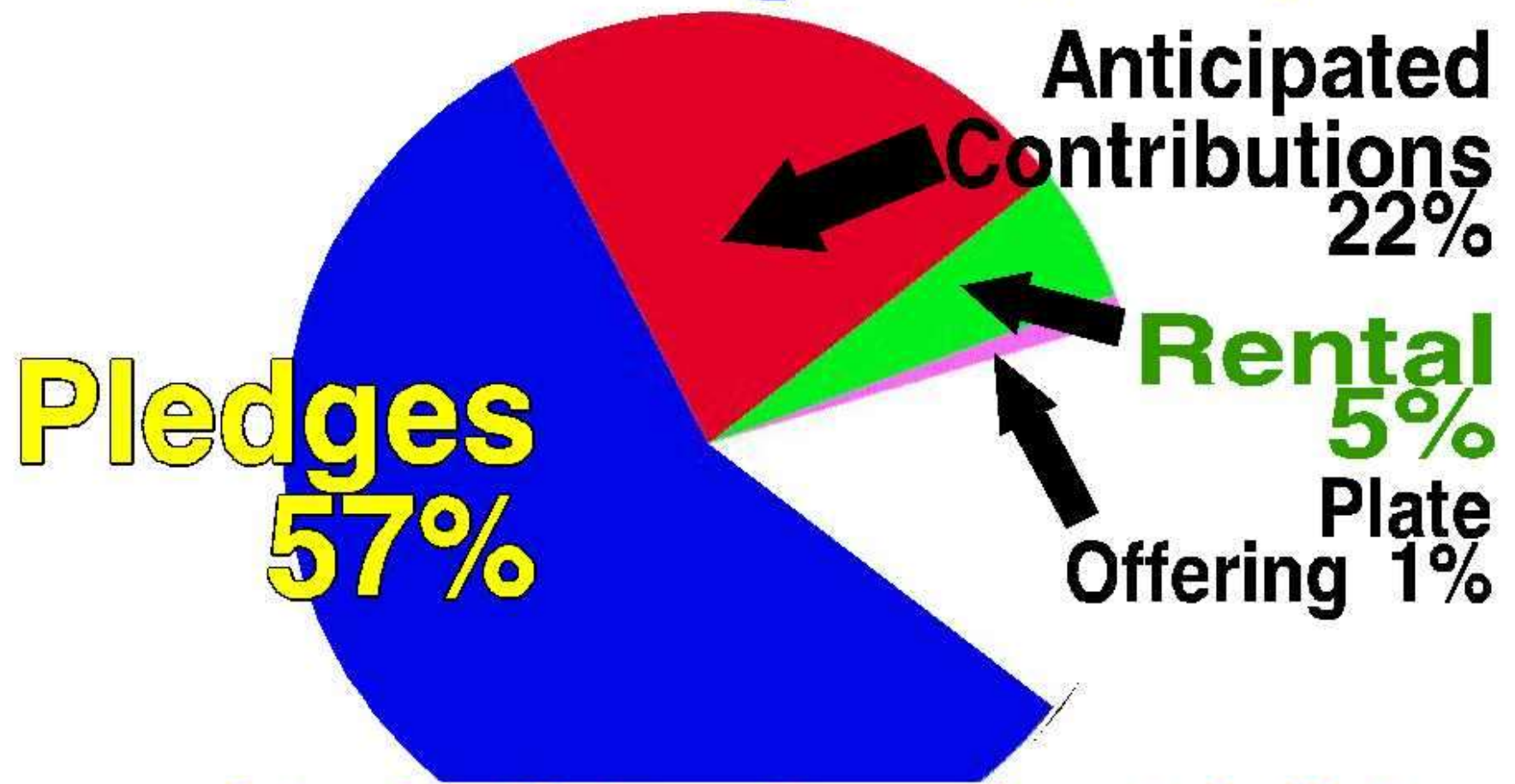
How do we make up the rest of the shortfall in our Operating Budget?

Our 2014 Budget: \$167,389



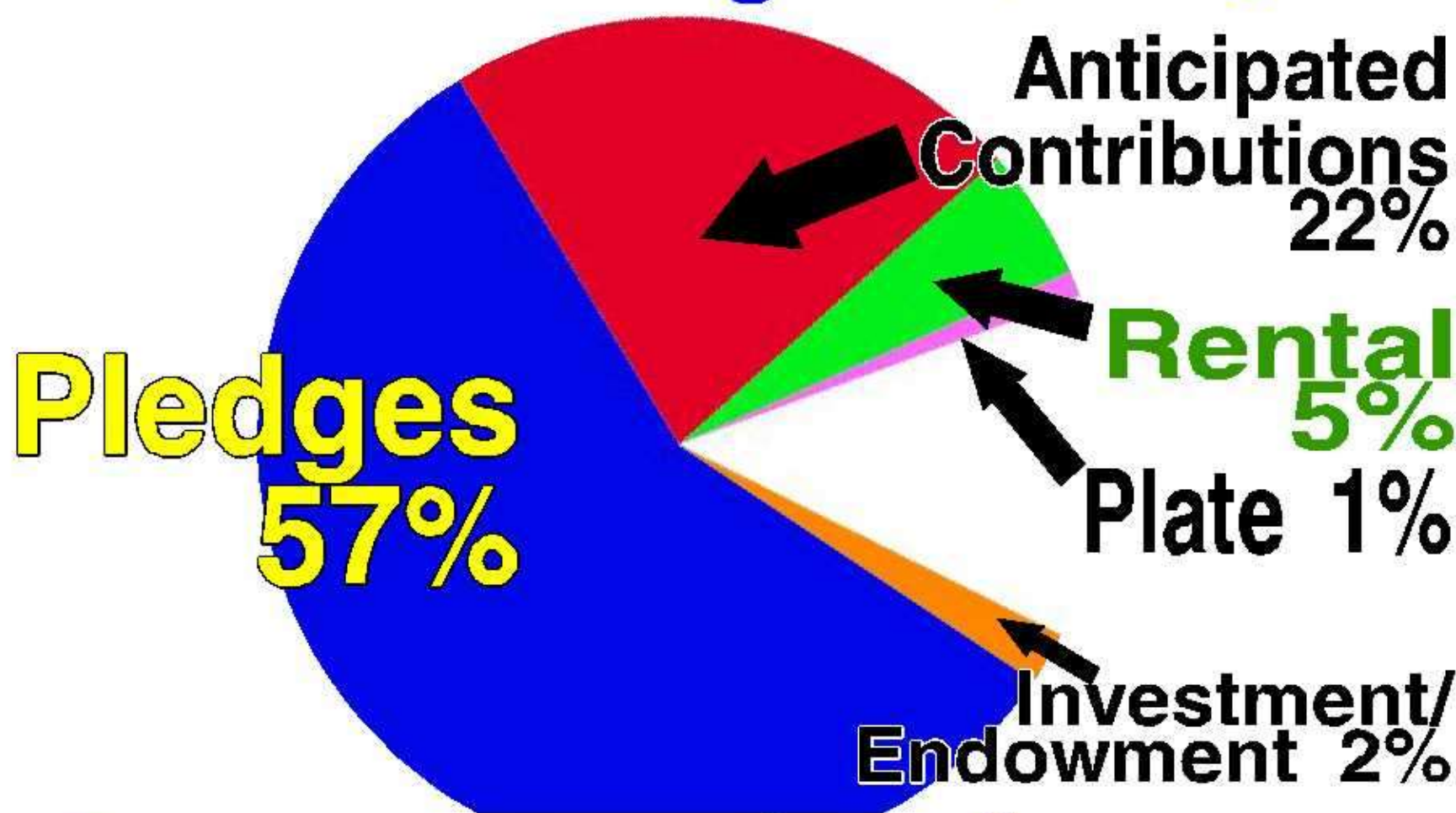
It was anticipated that Rental Income from Montessori & our Rental House would provide 7%; however, Montessori's Move & Rental Vacancies Occurred

Our 2014 Budget: \$167,389



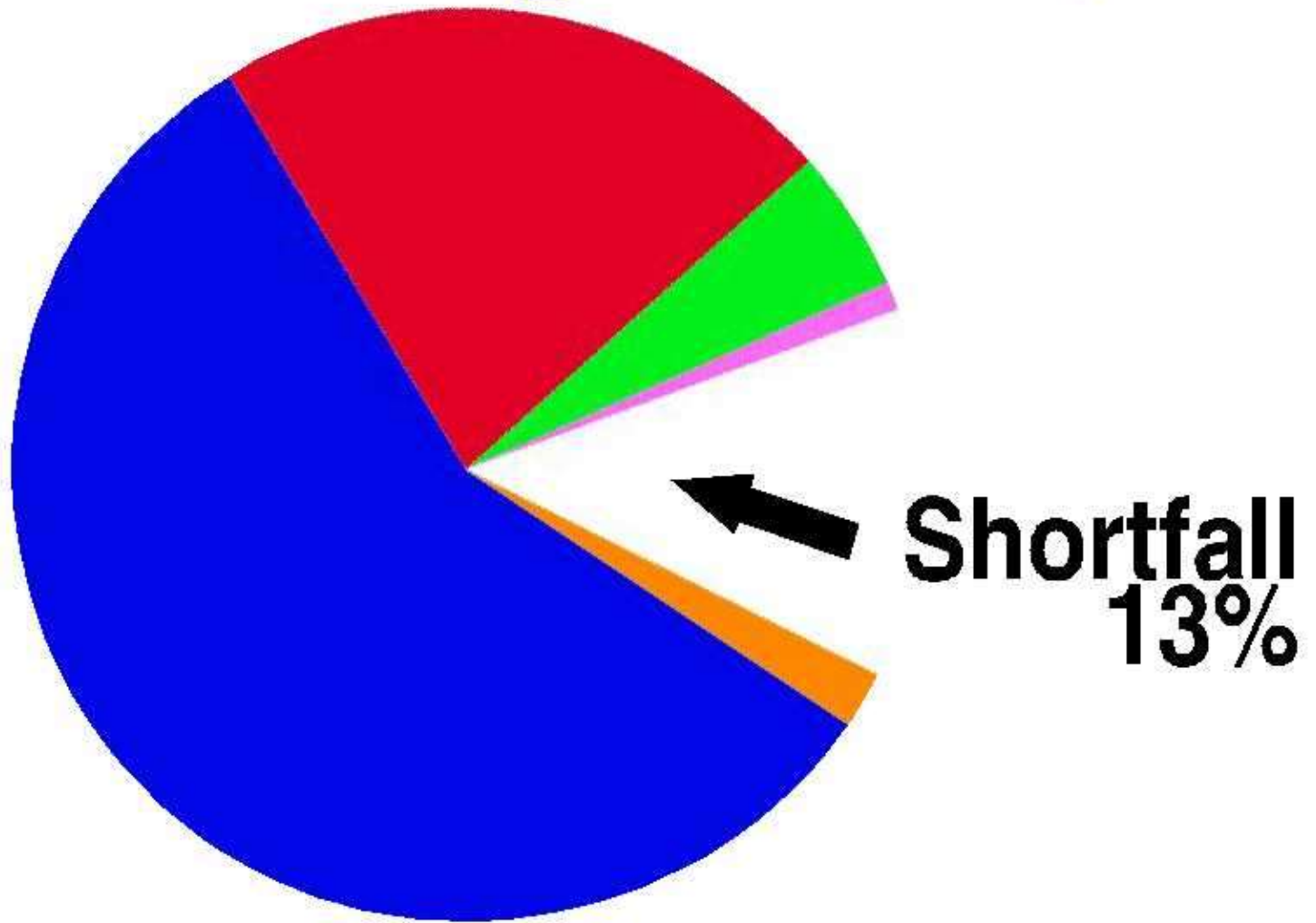
Loose cash in the offering plate and special offerings (Christmas, Easter, etc.) provide another 1%.

Our 2014 Budget: \$167,389



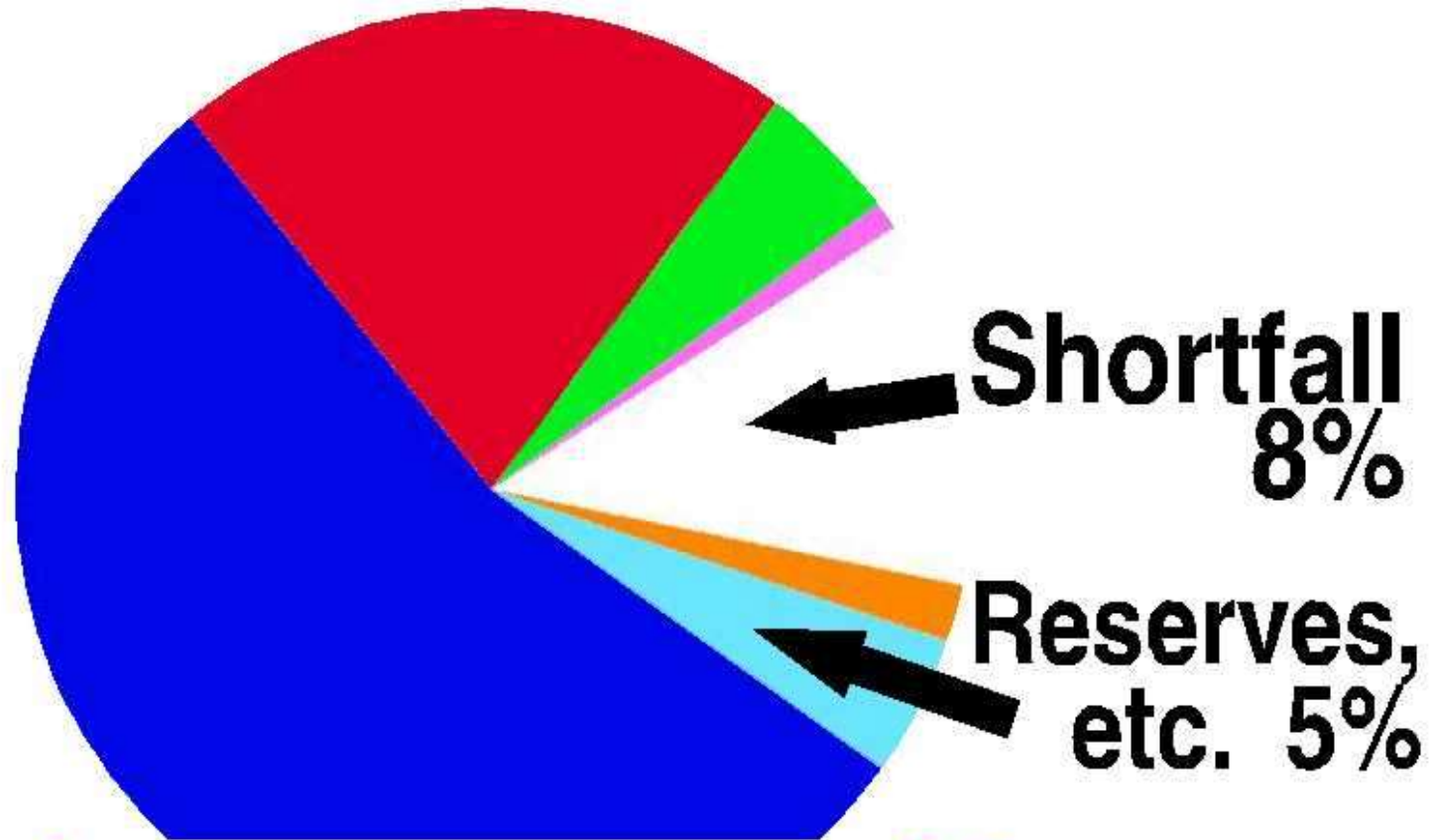
Investment and Endowment Income provide 2%.

Our 2014 Budget: \$167,389



This leaves a shortfall of 13%.



Our 2014 Budget: \$167,389



We have not accounted for Reserves carried over from last year, In/Out income, and Misc. Income

This leaves us with a shortfall in our Operating Budget of 8%.

It is hoped that we can make up this deficit by receiving – before the end of this year – more income in pledges and contributions.



Year to date, we have received **more** Contribution (non-pledged) income than anticipated, and **less** Pledge income than anticipated.

Remember:

There is not enough money in the operating budget to pay our Sunday School and Nursery expenses. Therefore, funds to pay these expenses are transferred to the Operating Fund from one of two different sources:

- a) A bequest given by Bob Grieve (a deceased member) **designated for youth.***
- b) Money we received as our portion of the sale of Trinity Ranch, which is also **designated for youth and children.***

We are very blessed to have been given these funds for youth! In addition to using them to help pay our Sunday School and Nursery expenses, we have put them to good use by paying for our youth to attend Summer Camp (\$450 each), Genesis and Quest weekends (\$130 each), and a Youth Mission trips (\$450 each).

Because there is not enough in our budget to pay for yard upkeep, our lawn mowing, yard upkeep and landscaping are being paid from a bequest made by Harrison and Dottie Hawthorne (who were passionate about landscaping)!



*What our
Christ
Church
ancestors are
paying for:*



**Sharing
what you
have
been
given**



We will be speaking about the importance of “Proportionate Giving” – giving a **percentage** of our income. The Biblical standard is the tithe, or 10%.

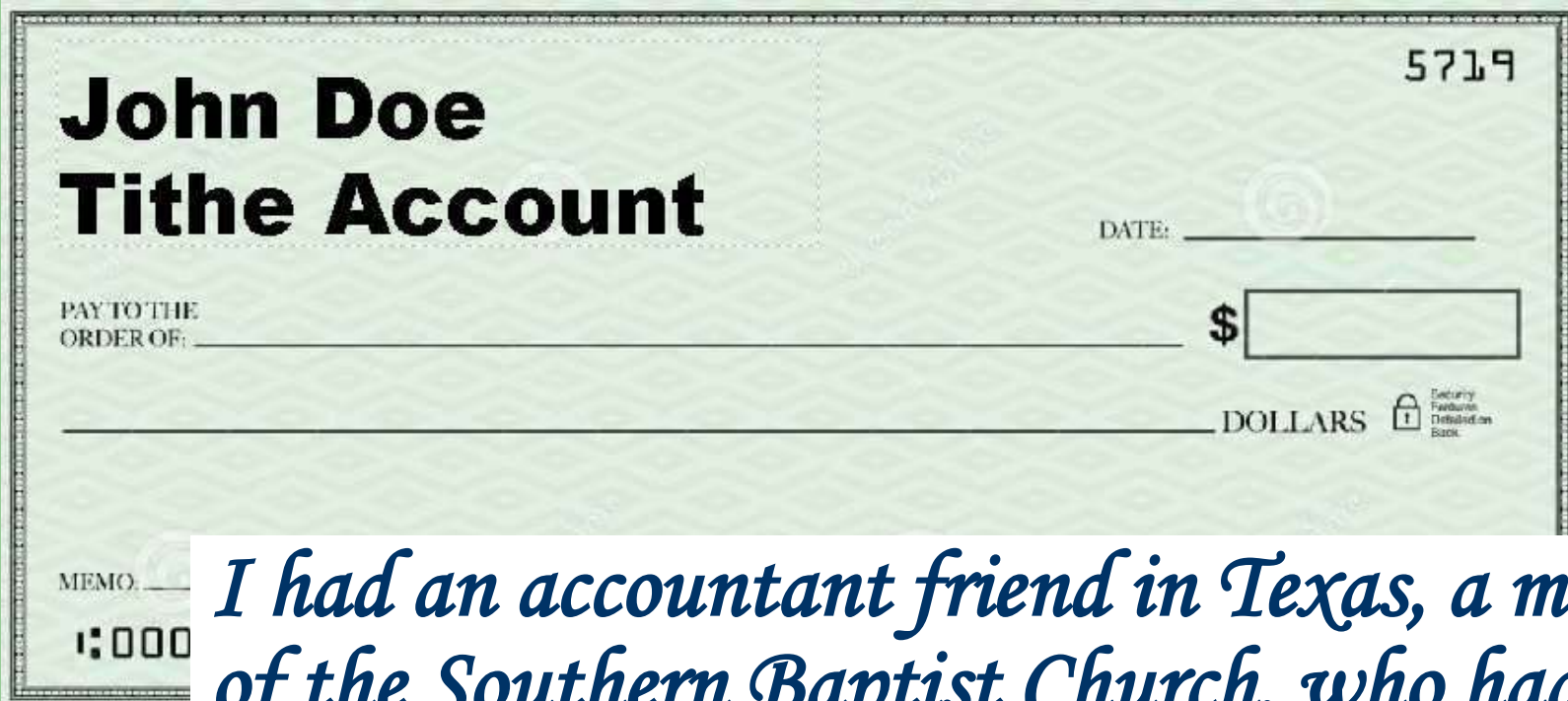


0-2 2-4 4-5 5-6 7-8 8-9 9-TITHE

% of Income Pledged

It is understood that not all of one's charitable giving goes to one's Church.

Some of you give to other charitable causes, such as Loaves and Fishes, El Hogar, the Cancer Society, Hospice, or a myriad of other worthy charities. This counts, of course, as part of your proportionate giving.



I had an accountant friend in Texas, a member of the Southern Baptist Church, who had a special checkbook which was his “Tithe Account”. Each month when he got his paycheck, he deposited 10% into this Tithe Account. He then wrote checks from this special checkbook to his church, hospice, and other charitable causes.

*In prayerfully considering
your pledge, ask yourself:*

- **Is Christ Church important to me and my family? To the community of Canon City?**
- **Does it help my faith – and that of others in our community – to grow?**
- **Does it draw me – and others in our community – closer to God?**
- **If Christ Church were to disappear tomorrow, would it be missed?**



We are all
members
of the
Body of
Christ.

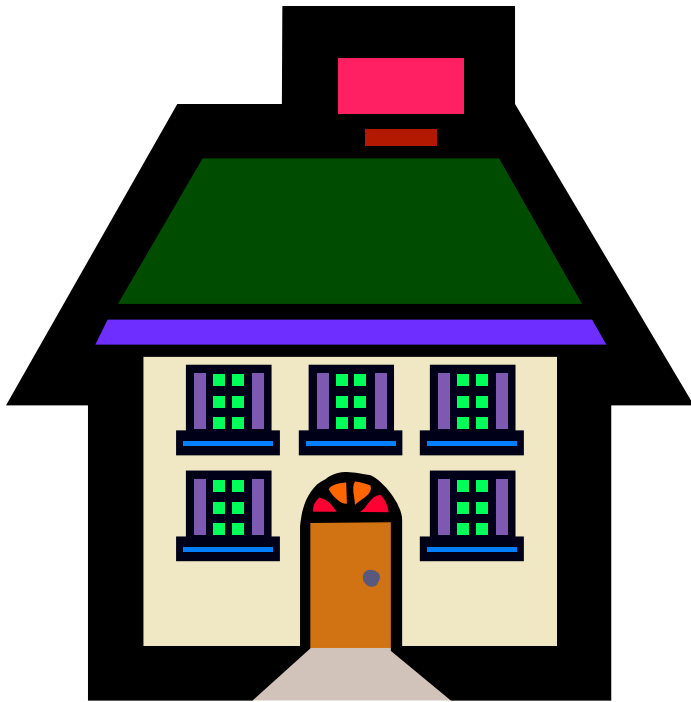


We are
family.

Some may be hesitant to pledge, thinking your income is uncertain.

This is understandable! But perhaps it is helpful to realize that we pledge our money to other things all the time.

We pledge to make monthly...



Mortgage payments

Car payments



We pledge to pay our premiums for

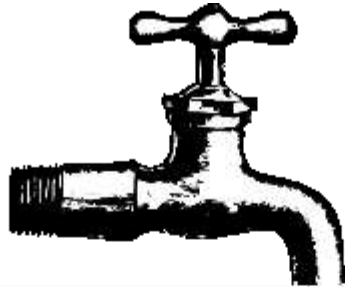


Health Insurance



Car Insurance

We pledge to pay these bills each month:



Internet



Sewer



Ask yourself: Where does Christ Church rank among these other pledges in importance?





Of course, if you fail to pay your water bill, the water is cut off. If you fail to pay your Pledge or Contribution, the Church does not cut off services to you! So why not pledge?

Grow, not Maintain

Perhaps the question to ask is not “What’s the minimal budget Christ Church can get by with and still pay its bills?” but rather “How could we grow in faithfulness and ministry if we had funds to expand our ministry to our community?”

Pledging is a Spiritual Act

When we pledge to Christ Church, we are making a spiritual statement of commitment. We are saying, “God and God’s work through the Church are important enough to me that I commit to return part of my substance to God’s work through Christ’s Church.”

Many people say that they feel deeply rewarded by making a pledge and committing to an intentional program of giving to the church. They say that kind of giving is a spiritual discipline that helps them feel closer to God, and more closely linked to this community, its activities and ministries.



There is something deep within us that delights in giving – it is because we are created in the image of a Giving God. Giving is part of our DNA.

**“But what if my income changes
and I can’t fulfill my pledge?”**

You can change your pledge.

*The Church understands that unforeseen circumstances can arise which may necessitate changing your pledge. But this shouldn’t keep you from **making** a pledge.*

Start Small



Perhaps you can start small and grow a step at a time in your giving, increasing each year in the percentage of your treasure that you give.

Step up in Faith


*"Where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also."*

--Jesus



0-2 2-4 4-5 5-6 7-8 8-9 9-TITHE

% of Income Pledged



*Where do we stand as a
parish family in giving
our Treasure?*

It is the proportionate amount that is more important than the absolute amount, of course. (Remember the widow's mite?) But I don't have access to proportionate giving numbers. So I give these absolute figures in hopes that they might prove helpful in your pledging.

The numbers represent “pledging units” (this could be a single person or a family) who regularly attend worship. Of course, we cannot keep track of donations in cash that are put in the offering plate with no envelope to identify the giver.

Step up in Faith



25

of Members

0 .01-4.99 5-9.99 10-19.99 20-29.99

Dollars per Week



Step up in Faith



of Members

25

1

0 .01-4.99 5-9.99 10-19.99 20-29.99

Dollars per Week



Step up in Faith



of Members

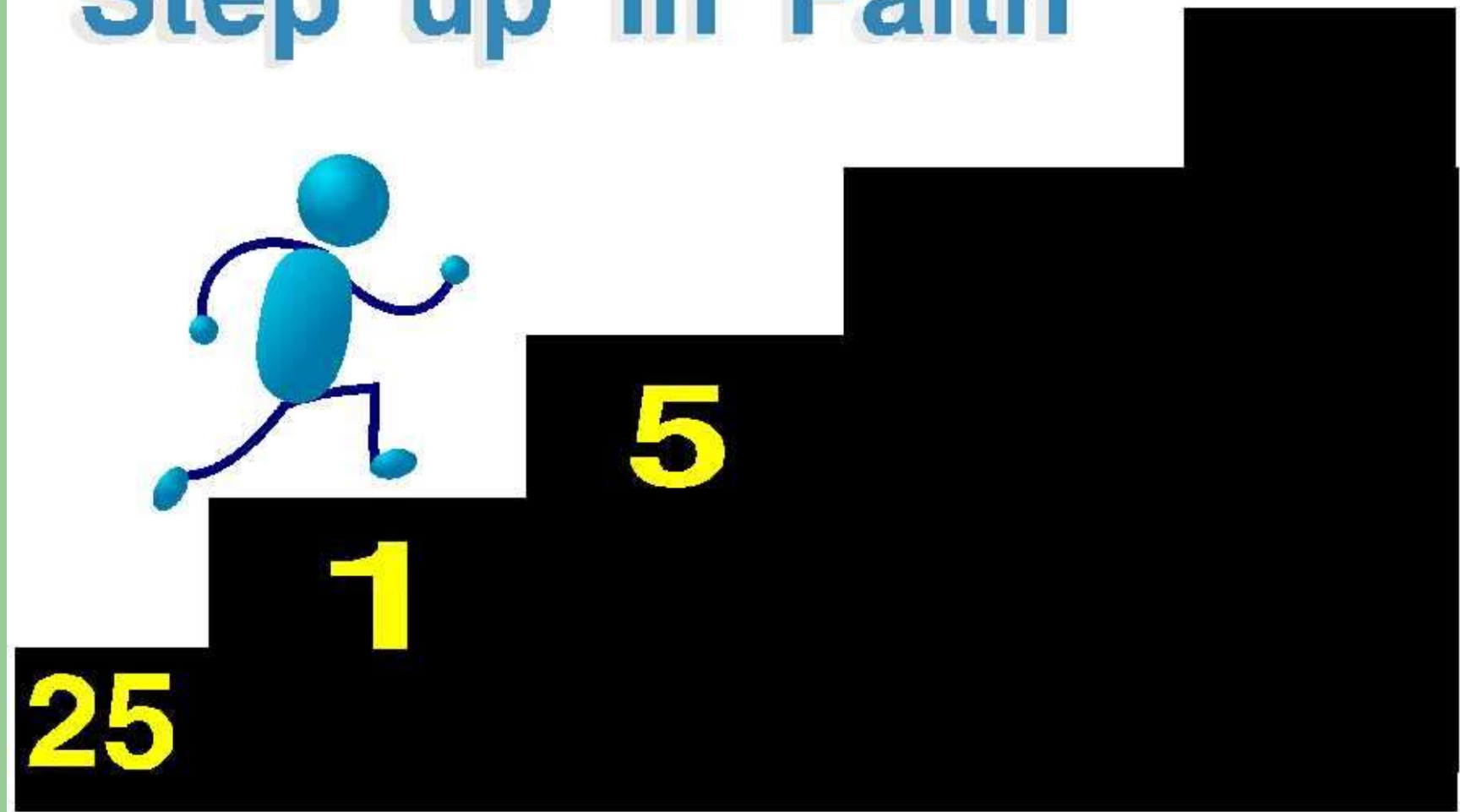
25

1

5

0 .01-4.99 5-9.99 10-19.99 20-29.99

Dollars per Week



Step up in Faith



of Members

25

1

5

8

0 .01-4.99 5-9.99 10-19.99 20-29.99

Dollars per Week

Step up in Faith



Step up in Faith



of Members

4

30-49.99

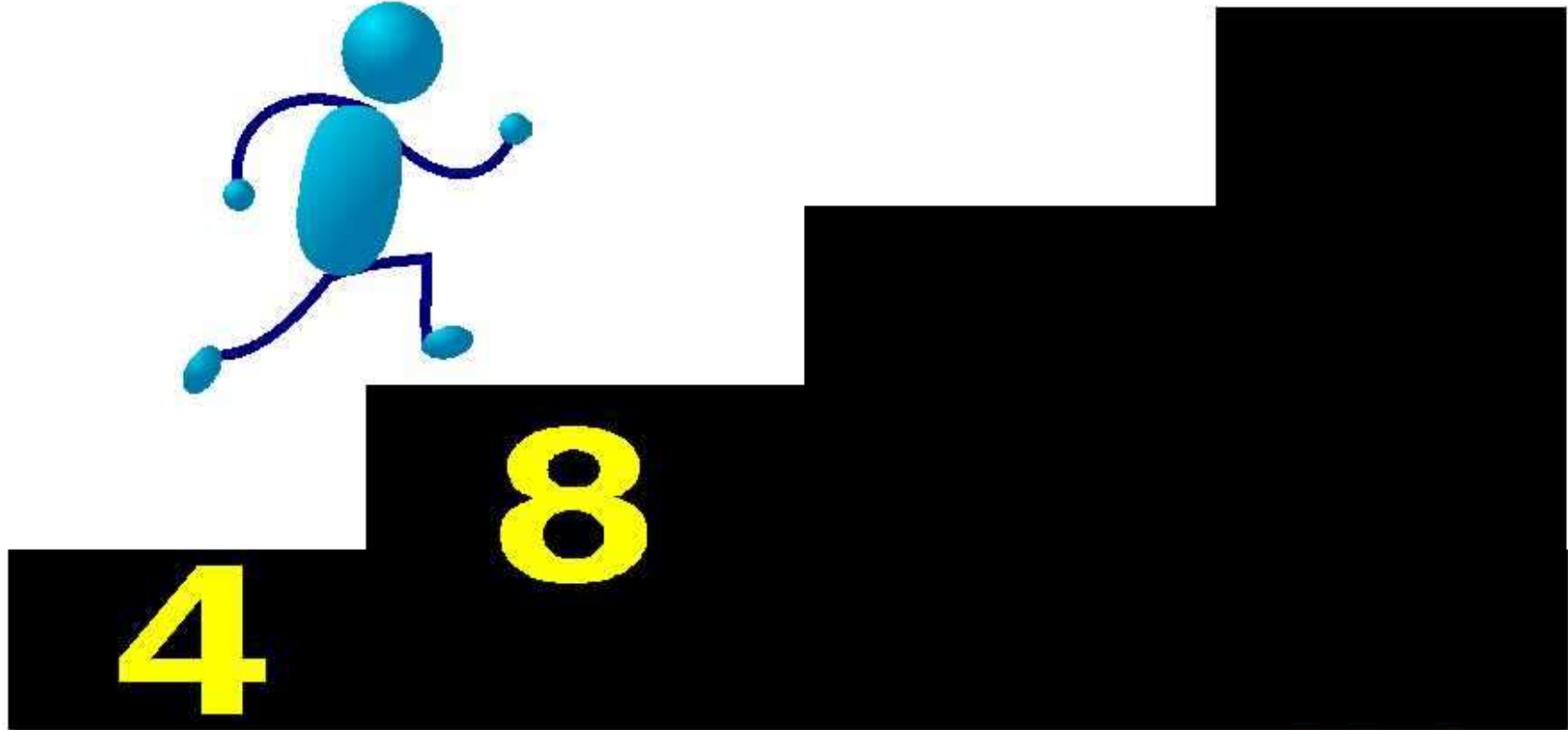
50-74.99

75-99.99

100+

Dollars per Week

Step up in Faith



30-49.99

50-74.99

75-99.99

100+

Dollars per Week

of Members

Step up in Faith



of Members



30-49.99

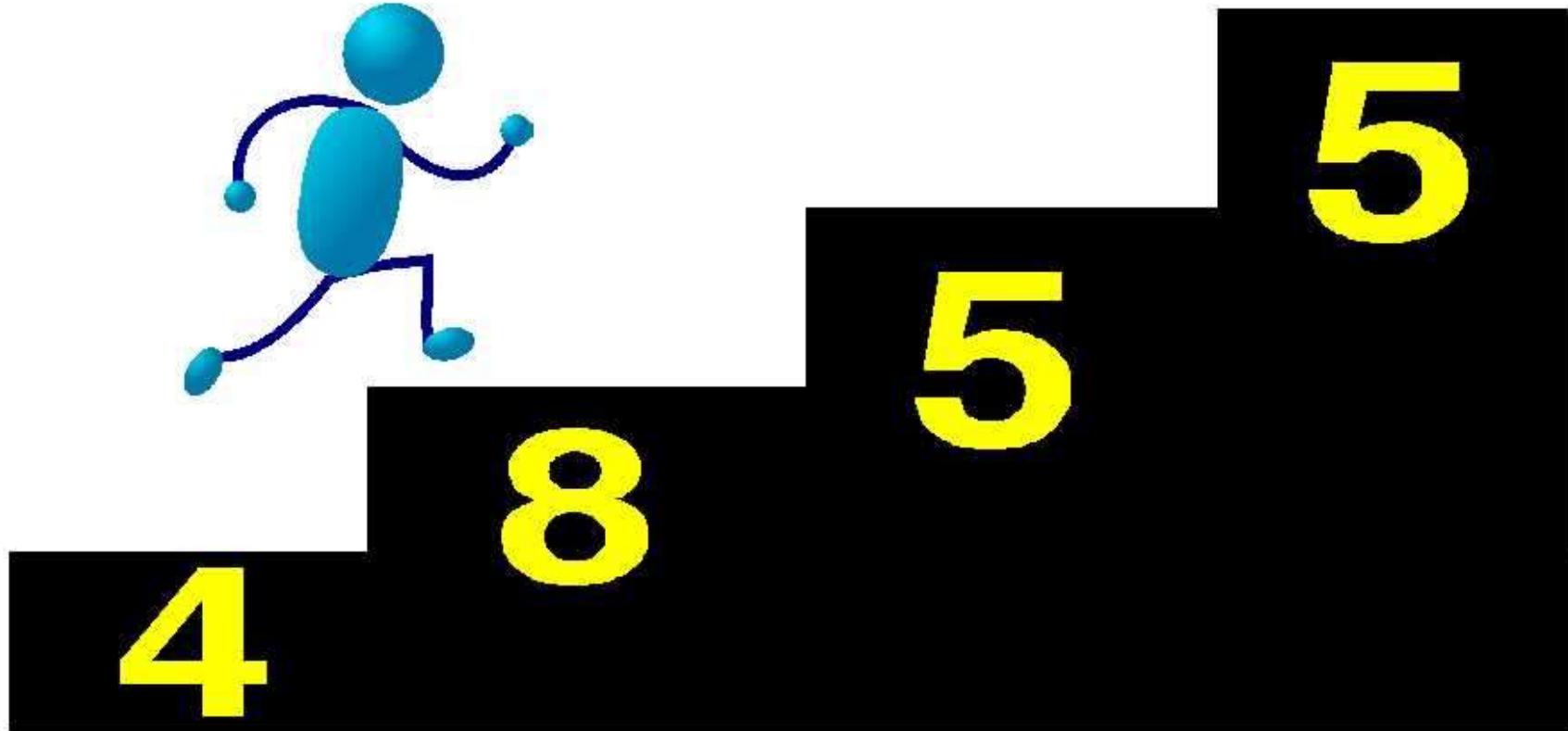
50-74.99

75-99.99

100+

Dollars per Week

Step up in Faith



30-49.99

50-74.99

75-99.99

100+

Dollars per Week

of Members

Will you take a step up?


*"Where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also."*

--Jesus



0-2 2-4 4-5 5-6 7-8 8-9 9-TITHE

% of Income Pledged



Future

Remember how we mentioned that our “contribution shortfall” was covered, in part, by generous, forward-looking people who loved Christ Church and left a “Legacy Gift” – a bequest, endowment, memorial, etc.?

*You can leave a Legacy Gift!
You can shower blessings on
generations of Christ Church
members to come, just as we
are being blessed by our
forbears in the present!*

Again, without Legacy Gifts, Bequests, and Memorials...

We would not have a new roof, painting for the church, new carpet, new sound system, projection and lighting, new restroom, playground equipment. We would not be able to pay to have our lawn mowed, bushes trimmed, roof sealed, Sunday School curriculum, Nursery attendant...

Please consider making provision for the Church in your Will, proportionate to the importance of the Church in your life.



It's Easy!

Just add a simple Codicil to your will. Barb Smith has forms, and can answer questions.



By remembering Christ Church in your Will, and telling us that you have done so, you become a member of the Christ Church Legacy Society.

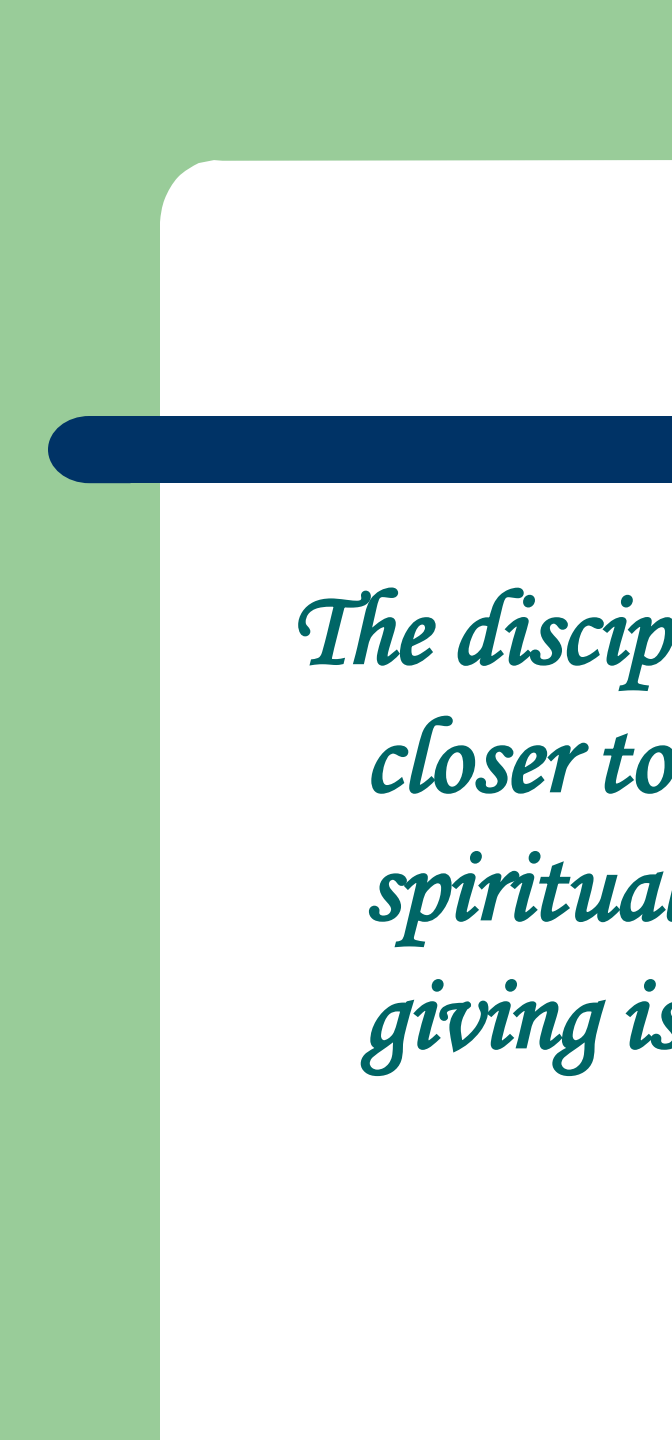




Some final reflections on Giving

When Jesus said, “for where your treasure is there your heart will be also” (Mt 6:21) he was teaching that money not only reveals our hearts, it also shapes our hearts...

...and helps form us in the likeness of Christ.

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The discipline of giving draws us closer to Jesus and releases us spiritually in many areas. True giving is an act of self-liberation.

St. Paul writes:

“Every Sunday each of you must put aside some money, in proportion to what you have earned...”

-1 Corinthians 16:2

*Following this directive
from St. Paul, giving should be:*

- *regular every Sunday*
- *individual each one of us*
- *planned put aside*
- *proportional in proportion to our
income*

We can develop an attitude of gratitude.

“In daily life we must see that it is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy.”

-- Br. David Steindl-Rast

Caught up in God's Life and Mission

Giving to the church does not just pay the bills; it allows us to respond to God's invitation to participate in mission, and in doing so, lets us be caught up in his giving of new life. God works through us, both as individuals and as a church.

Maintenance or Mission?

As long as our giving is motivated by “paying the bills”, we will be stuck in the mode of Maintenance, not Mission.

In this day and age, churches which are focused on maintenance do not survive.

*We are created
in the image of
a God whose
nature is to
give, so that
when we are
giving we are
acting in accord
with our truest
self.*





*Stewardship is not one
Sunday a year, but
a Way of Life*

*Living in the profound awareness that everything
belongs to God*



Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

