

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH BUDGET NARRATIVE 2021



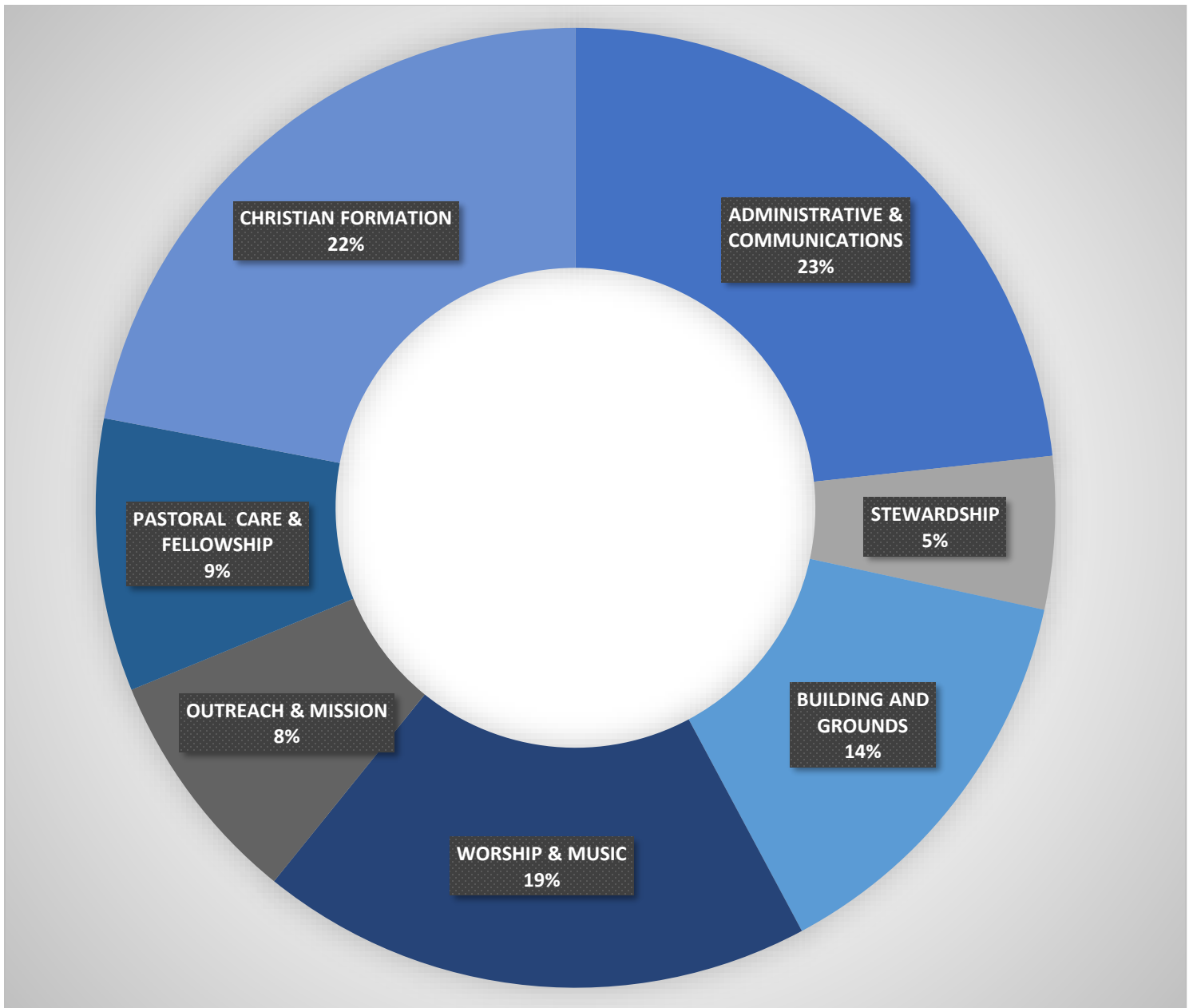
Notice



Wonder



Called



Your pledge is carefully, prayerfully, and lovingly invested in our parish. From music, to fellowship, to building upkeep, and more, each dollar has its purpose and plan. To give a fuller picture of our expenses and how money is spent, we've put together the following narrative budget.

Take a look to see the many reasons for pledging at Christ Church.

Even as we are challenged to discover what it means to be church, we are faithful to God, to each other and to the parish.

Worship and Music: 19%

Services

Worship to suit your tradition for now as we learn and practice being church during a pandemic, we have two **online Sunday Services**. Whether you're inspired by tradition, graced with Celtic roots, or more laid back about prayer, we have two wonderful services to help you celebrate the Sabbath and look forward to the week ahead.

However, you choose to approach God, Christ Church offers you a path to walk – or run or skip.

Children and Worship

Always welcome no matter the format of worship!

Children can serve at our services when they sign up to join the processional or choir, help at the altar, and carry forward bread and wine at our services. Your children may also greet churchgoers with you at the door. Hospitality and welcoming from the children are just one of the highlights of worship and fellowship and service.

Music

The Bible includes more than 73 instrumental music performances and we'll give you at least eight in our Sunday worship services.

Canterbury Parish Choir

Provide stirring harmonies, as well as rousing gospel melodies. Whether you prefer one or all, consider inviting the voices of into your worship tradition...as we invite you to share in your pledge.

If you feel closer to God in the afternoons, our Church offers its 5:00 pm **Celtic Musicians** alternate musicians playing lilting songs in the spirit of St. Patrick, St. Andrew and the British Isles.

Concerts for our Community

When in-person gatherings return we hope to continue to bring a variety of talented performers to the beautiful nave and serene Maginnis Chapel of Christ Church Episcopal Church for afternoons of "beautiful music in a beautiful space".

Please stay a bit after worship each week and enjoy a stirring postlude from our gifted organist on our amazing organ. It may stir you to consider making your pledge.

Christian Formation: 22%

Pledging to keep the young at our hearts...

Children of all ages are welcome at Christ Church!

This year we are wondering together in a different format but still bringing the Good News to children.

Our **Youth Programs** provide Christian based opportunities for youth grades 6 – 12 to explore their own faith journey and join an inclusive community that welcomes everyone regardless of where you are in your spiritual life.

Throughout the year, we offer a wonderful array of special activities and events for children and youth:

- Homecoming
- Blessings of backpacks, pets and costumes
- Celebrations of Feasts of All Saints, Epiphany and Pentecost
- Advent Wreath Making
- Visit from St Nicolas
- Christmas Eve Pageant
- Shrove Tuesday
- Ash Wednesday Service for families
- Passion Walk
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Vacation Bible School
- Tree House for 4th and 5th graders
- Spirituality and the Arts Camp

Even if you can only pledge a little for the little, please pledge if you can.

Some Learning Opportunities for Your Pledge...

Our comprehensive **Adult Christian Formation** includes forums, discussion groups, Bible studies, and more. Together, we explore theology, spirituality, the impact of the arts and literature on our lives, and practical ways to live out our Baptismal Covenant.

For deeper exploration, groups like **Education for Ministry (EfM)**, **Lectio Divina**, **Women in Spirituality**, **Age-ing and Sage-ing** and **Centering Prayer** offer opportunities to study, reflect, and grow.

Additionally, our annual **Lenten Wednesday Soup Supper and Study** brings us together to share our faith stories with the greater community.

Outreach and Mission: 8%

Food for Thought and for Pledging...

Either by operating or participating in community food bank projects, Potluck in the Park or serving in the 14 other outreach ministries around the community Christ Church is a source of sustenance for our community and around the world.

- American Red Cross Blood Drives
- CCEP Food Pantry
- Good Samaritan Ministries (Sam's Attic)
- Habitat for Humanity Willamette West
- Health Bridges International Peru
- Holiday sharing/giving tree
- Lake Oswego Meals on Wheels
- Lake Oswego Transitional Shelter
- Masaka School – Uganda
- Potluck in the Park
- TLC/TNT (Tender Loving Care/Think 'n Try)
- William Temple House

Most of Outreach funding comes from additional fundraising generally through an auction.

Food Pantry

Christ Church's food pantry serves our neighborhood and surrounding food banks.

Our **Sandwich Team** volunteers meet monthly to make and pack 125 brown bagged sandwiches for distribution by Potluck in the Park.

We eagerly wait for the opportunity to serve our AA/ twelve steps group back to our building.

If you're looking for a place your pledge is most needed,

"The place God calls you to, is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." —Fredrick Buechner

More Reasons for Extending your Reach and your Pledge...

Administrative and Communications: 22%

While this piece of the pie might not be the most exciting, it's necessary to keep the parish running.

Office equipment and computer hardware and software keep the staff productive and the office firing on all cylinders.

And if you stop by on any afternoon, you'll hear the hum of life that's a mainstay of weekly operations.

Telecommunications, postage, and office supplies are some of the other expenses rounding out this category. This includes the cost of internet and website and most recently to ability to broadcast our worship services seamlessly to the large world.

Some Newsworthy Reasons for Pledging

Christ Church's **Social Media** lets you keep abreast of the meetings, opportunities and goings on each day, every week, all year! Our website is a bevy of information to help you get and stay connected with Christ Church.

Our weekly e-newsletter gives you pictures and stories of the latest gatherings and information about upcoming events.

Weekly Devotions are a place for reflection and prayer offered each Tuesday.

We also **advertise** our Holy Week and Christmas services in the newspaper so more of our local community can celebrate the high holidays with us.

Signs, brochures, and other **printed materials** to help spread the word and catch the eye are part of the Communications piece of the pie.

Developing our data base and communications through REALM is a goal for this next year

Also included in this area are the costs for finding, hiring and possible relocating a new rector. That sounds like a good reason to increase your pledge this year!

Member Care 11%

Pastoral care is taken seriously and lovingly at Christ Church by our **Care Circle**, and **Prayer Group**.

The pastoral care committee group provides the parish with the care good neighbors give. Lending a helping hand in an emergency, running errands, touch base via email or phone or with a visit, providing a hot meal, sending an encouraging card.

As we are able, **Eucharistic Visitors** will once again, bring communion to those unable to come to the church building for worship

Christ Church Prayer Group is a small, group committed to pray by name for whomever prayer has been requested.

Christ Church's congregation and clergy are here to help you through the dark tunnels into the light of life.

Fellowship provides Christ Church members with opportunities to share in the communal spirit of Jesus Christ in the parish. You can taste and see the Commission's work immediately at coffee hour. Also responsible for hospitality at special receptions, the parish picnic and various potlucks.

And if you're into pancakes, be sure to stop by next Shrove Tuesday for a Mardi Gras celebration. We hope to celebrate in style the Feast of the Resurrection this year with grand party following the Easter Vigil.

Once we are able, we will reestablish gatherings like dinner for Eight and Spark, these and other opportunities to meet and get to know each other away from the parish.

Building and Grounds: 14%

Some Traditional Reasons for Pledging

The facilities of Christ Church offer a sacred home for baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and celebrations of life. Usually in a normal year, many experiences the joy, dignity, and presence of God in their lifetime events at the altar of our church.

The "the church is open" sign welcomes all to enter the church or Chapel of St Joseph for private prayers. The votive table to the right of the altar is a peaceful corner to say a prayer for loved ones. Your pledge helps us preserve the heritage of our building and to keep it open to all in love.

Stewardship: 5%

The smallest piece of our pie goes towards Stewardship. This sliver covers mailings, supplies, and printing as we prepare to ask all to contribute their own bite to our budget.

We hope this narrative budget has helped give a fuller picture of how Christ Church is dedicated to investing our revenues in our parish, community, and world.

Lastly, we invite you to share in this beautiful bounty and this loving work with your pledge. Our pledge link is available at ccparish.org (2021 PLEDGE).



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