



*Growing,
Giving,
Serving...*

in all ways in Christ!

A Narrative Budget for St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Brighton, MI



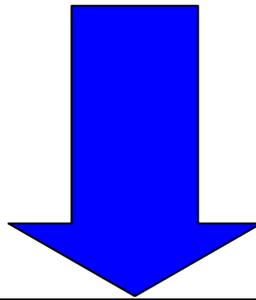
St. Paul's is about people!

As we journey into the future that God is calling

we pray that we are disturbed into action,

that our horizons broaden,

that we dream big and then act to make it happen.



A Prayer for St. Paul's

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well-pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too small, when we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore. Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life. Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery, where in losing sight of land we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hope, and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope and love. Amen

Stewardship is not a program.

Stewardship is not raising money.

Stewardship is a journey.

Stewardship is about life, in fact it is a way of life.



The Book of Common Prayer teaches us that “the church carries out its mission through the ministry of its members.” All of us are called to use our God-given gifts and talents for the ministry and work of the Church. This calling is the very heart of stewardship. In action, stewardship is the way we use, or do not use, our resources to further unity and reconciliation in our homes, our communities and our occupations. Stewardship is reaching out in love and charity to our families, neighbors and the larger world to promote justice and make life better for all.

The people of St. Paul’s are very active in stewardship. Singly and in organized groups, the parishioners are deeply committed to the many stewardship opportunities awaiting them both here at St. Paul’s and in the larger community. Many feel it is a way of showing gratitude to God who has been so generous to God’s people....a way of giving back to God a portion of the bounty He has given them.

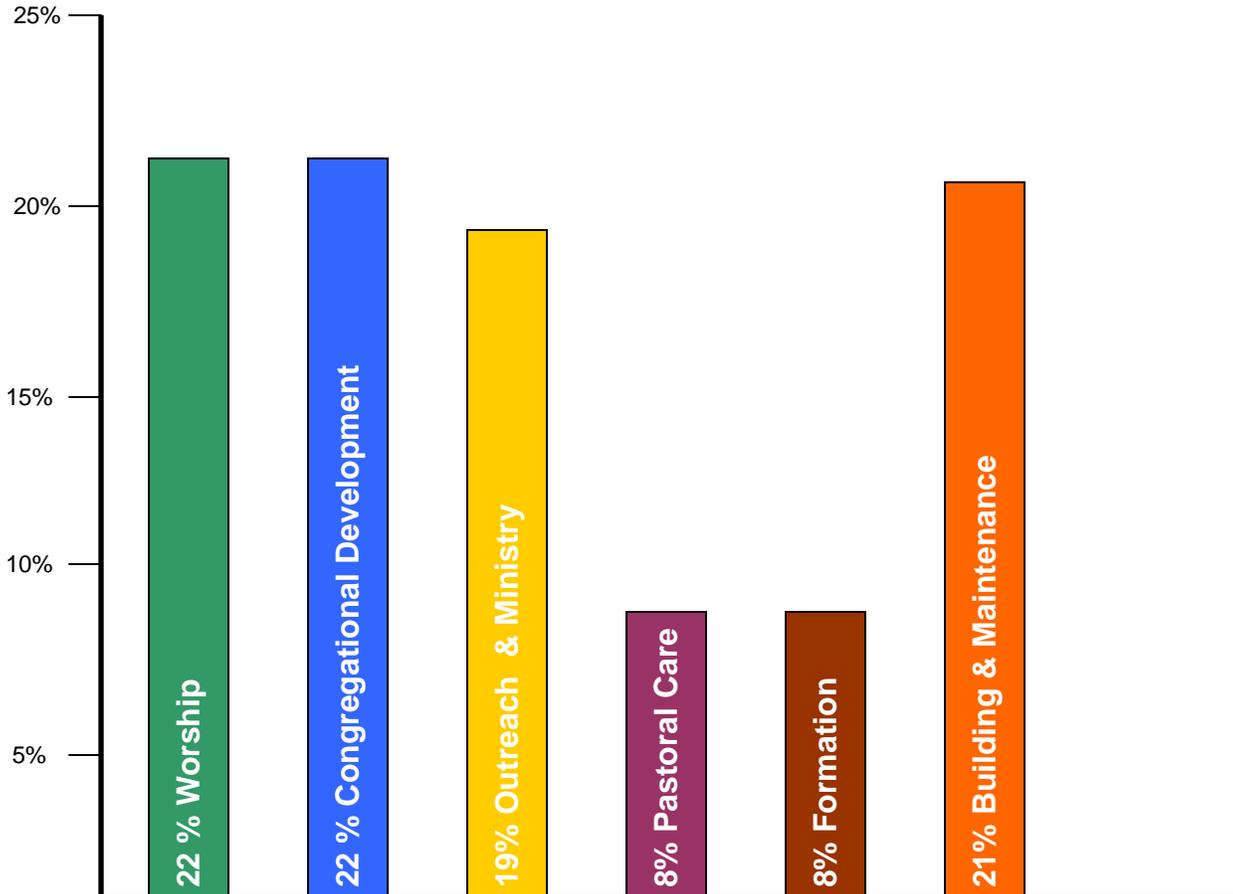
We believe God is the source of all gifts, spiritual and material. While we strive to be good stewards of all of God’s gifts to us, we believe that the way we use our money reflects the state of our spiritual lives. Our experience is that joyful giving results in spiritual growth. The Vestry and the Stewardship Team invite the parish to join us in this commitment to deepening our faith.

We ask each of you to prayerfully and conscientiously evaluate your own stewardship, asking yourselves, “What is God’s share of my resources?” Then with an open heart make your pledge. Many of you are already pledging a tithe. For those who are not, we encourage you to consider working toward the tithe. Take a step of faith and begin an exciting journey.

Consistent with the concept of stewardship as implementing the mission of the Church, your Vestry and the Finance Committee will develop a budget for 2008 based on the areas of ministry in which we are engaged, with the costs of those activities allocated to the respective areas of ministry. This format allows you to see how the finances of the Church were used during the past year and offers a preview of what can be done in the next year.



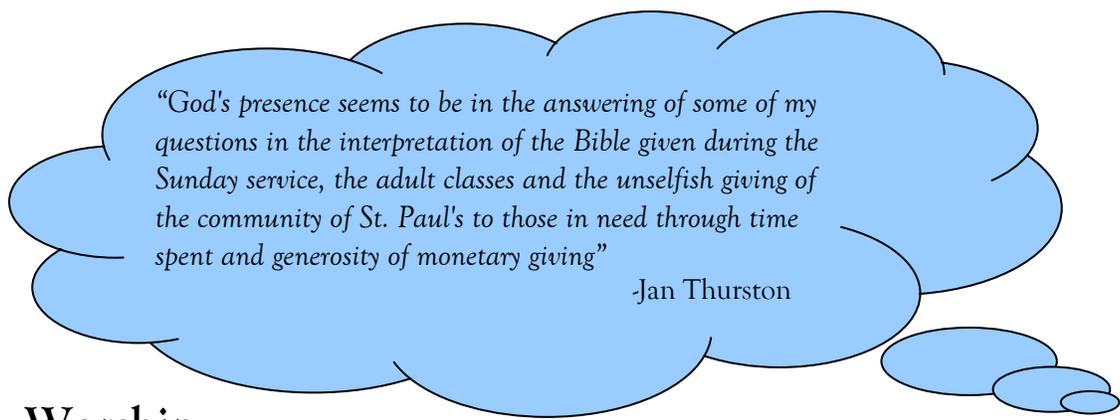
2007 Budget by Program



This chart gives a picture of 2007 expenditures. In the coming year we will not only have to plan for a cost of living increase, program expansion (IMAGINE Lists!) but also for deferred capital improvements. We have a beautiful historic building that will need major repairs and we need to continue work to make our building reflect the sense of welcome present in our congregation. Our Vestry and Rector are committed to being good stewards of all that we have, and seek within the next five years to balance our budget.

All of this is Good News. Our parish is active and growing. Our members are engaged in mission and ministry across a broad spectrum of activities both within and without the parish walls. All of this ongoing ministry is as it should be. God asks that we give our time, talent and treasure for the remaking of the world in God's image. If we can imagine a world where God's children can live in peace and harmony, then it can happen. The Kingdom of God becomes a reality when people of faith live as if the Kingdom has already come.

Worship



"God's presence seems to be in the answering of some of my questions in the interpretation of the Bible given during the Sunday service, the adult classes and the unselfish giving of the community of St. Paul's to those in need through time spent and generosity of monetary giving"

-Jan Thurston

Worship

As Christians, worship is central to our life in the Church. When we gather for the Eucharist, for prayers, or for other sacramental rites, we are reminded of our covenant relationship with God and the saving work of Jesus Christ. As a worshipping community we gather to support one another as well. We gather as a community of faith to praise God and to hear God's word; to renew the bonds that bind us together as the people of God. Worship is central to who we are as a community of faith in Brighton. What we do on Sunday morning empowers and encourages us to "go forth into the world" to do the work we have been given to do.

Worship involves:

- ⊕ Giving thanks for our many blessings
- ⊕ A celebrant and preacher
- ⊕ Lay participants in the worship service
- ⊕ Altar supplies & flowers
- ⊕ Christmas, Easter and other special events
- ⊕ Administrative support
- ⊕ Worship booklets
- ⊕ Offering envelopes
- ⊕ Supply clergy and musicians
- ⊕ The Director of Music
- ⊕ The Choir and musicians
- ⊕ The work of the Rector

Total allocated to Worship in 2007: \$51,028.00

Projected Deficit Reduction 2008: \$1,900.00

[Sheet Music, Altar Flowers, supply Clergy, pledge envelopes]

2008 IMAGINE List!

- ❖ New robes for choir (approx \$50 per robe) \$1,000.00
- ❖ LEVAS II Hymnals for choir \$340.00
- ❖ Organ repair/upgrade \$250.00

Congregational Development

Congregational Development

To function effectively as a Christian community, we need to communicate with each other, to study and learn together and to join together in fellowship. These activities build the bonds of relationship and enrich our life of faith. In order for us to be an effective faith community in the Brighton area we must continually seek to develop and grow; inviting others into the journey of faith with Christ as our guide. Growth involves not only numbers but spiritual growth and a growth in our understanding of how we express our faith.

Congregational Development includes:

- ⊕ Adult Christian formation
- ⊕ Welcoming newcomers
- ⊕ Parish Life
- ⊕ Social fellowship activities, such as dinners & coffee hour
- ⊕ Newsletters, E-News and other communication
- ⊕ Website & internet hosting
- ⊕ Parish mailings
- ⊕ The work of the stewardship team
- ⊕ Financial management of our investment funds
- ⊕ The Parish Coordinator
- ⊕ Training & development of the Vestry
- ⊕ The work of the Rector

Total allocated to Congregational Development in 2007 \$52,140.00

Projected Deficit Reduction in 2008: \$4,500.00

[Parish Coordinator Time reduction, mailing reduction, vestry expense reduction, electronic communication.]

2008 IMAGINE List!

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| ❖ Expand social fellowship activities | \$0.00 |
| ❖ Increase visibility in community | \$0.00 |
| ❖ Natural Church Development | \$250.00 |
| ❖ Lounge area in Parish Hall | \$300.00 |
| ❖ Special events advertising | \$500.00 |
| ❖ Welcome new members to the parish | Priceless |

“Everyone has always been so welcoming and genuine that I really feel at ease and at home here. It's amazing to me to see such a wide variety of folks from all sorts of backgrounds working together to do their part to make the church such an awesome place.”

-Laura Schwennesen

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is the ongoing support by our clergy and lay people for the nurturing of our parish. In this way, we express the meaning of Christian community by sharing with each other our time, talent and treasure. We gather as community to worship but also to “check-in” with each other. Our ongoing care of each other helps us to truly experience Christ in community.

Pastoral Care involves:

- ⊕ Visiting parishioners in the hospital
- ⊕ Visiting shut-ins, and making telephone calls
- ⊕ The Rector’s care for those in need
- ⊕ Consoling those experiencing grief of loss
- ⊕ Taking Holy Communion to shut-ins
- ⊕ Providing meals and transportation
- ⊕ Counseling and crisis care
- ⊕ Pre-marriage counseling
- ⊕ Small group ministries
- ⊕ Administrative support

Total Allocated to Pastoral Care in 2007 \$20,392

Proposed Deficit Reduction in 2008 \$0.00

Proposed increase for 2008 \$0.00

2008 IMAGINE List!

- ❖ Increase number of small groups \$0.00
- ❖ Increase care during illness \$0.00
- ❖ Planned giving seminar \$150.00

“I love the community of St. Paul's and the spiritual warmth of the people who attend.”

-Suzanne Conerway

“I began my worship at St. Paul's because of my relocation from my previous home and parish. I also had a strong desire to worship in the community where I live. The welcome and follow up I received was outstanding.”

-June Jenkins

Youth & Education

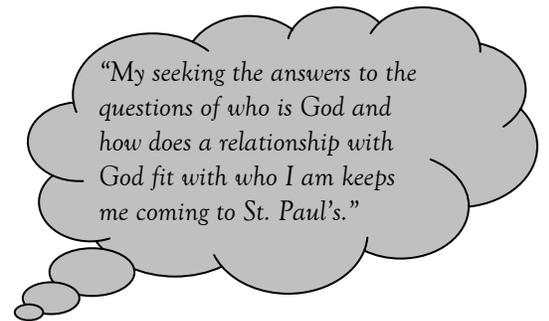
Youth & Formation

Children are our future, but they are also our present. As we share in the responsibility of guiding them through church life, they, in turn guide us, leading by example with their own “childlike” faith. As a parish we want to nurture this faith, as well as cultivate good stewardship habits in children, through various programs and services. Our children have every reason to believe they are special members of the St. Paul’s family.

As adults we are on a journey of discovery much like our children. We are called to a process of continued learning about what our faith in Jesus Christ means and how that is expressed in our daily lives. If we see faith and Christian formation as a journey, we understand that we have the opportunity to continually grow. Formation opportunities at St. Paul’s offer both adults and children companions for the journey of faith.

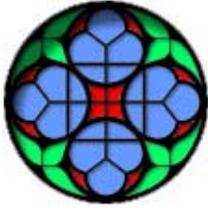
Youth & Formation includes:

- ⊕ Rotation model curriculum
- ⊕ Sunday school supplies & materials
- ⊕ Director of Christian Formation
- ⊕ Adult formation materials
- ⊕ Rite 13 Ceremony & crosses
- ⊕ Youth trips/activities
- ⊕ Vacation Bible School program
- ⊕ Nursery (toys, snacks etc.)
- ⊕ Bible garden
- ⊕ The Christmas pageant
- ⊕ Appreciation gifts for teachers



*** This past year the Sunday school rooms were repainted and updated to reflect the new rotational model curriculum. Thanks to the generous donations of members of the parish, of time, talent and treasure, the new rooms are a joy to our young people. ***

Total Allocated to Youth & Formation in 2007	\$19,766.00
Proposed Deficit Reduction in 2008 <i>[Sharing Director of Education position & reduction of hours]</i>	\$3,000.00
Proposed increase for 2008	\$0.00
2008 IMAGINE List!	
❖ A children’s area in the Parish Hall	\$400.00
❖ Equipment for the Rotation program	\$150.00
❖ A TV for youth room	\$250.00



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

I M A G I N E

I am only one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
What I can do, I ought to do.
What I ought to do...by God's grace...I will do.

- Adapted from D.O.K.

At St. Paul's we are a community filled with a sense of expectation and excitement. We are a place of tremendous excitement and joyful expectation. From Sunday School to Fishes & Loaves to the Art Fair there is a sense of purpose and Christ's presence in our community. There is much to celebrate and much to be excited about.

As we think about Stewardship as a community, not just stewardship of our finances, but our joyful response to God in all aspects of our lives, the Vestry, Rector and Finance Team are all working to present an accurate accounting of what we do with the many blessings God has given us.

We are faced with a number of deferred maintenance tasks such as repairing the flat roof of the Parish Offices, preserving our beautiful stained glass windows, maintaining the furnace, and renovating the sacristy. These are expensive items. The Church must begin to process of systematic replacement and repair over the next few years.

The repairs to our physical plant need to be accomplished on a regular schedule rather than our present panic-mode approach of "patch and hope for the best". In addition, key equipment needs to be purchased or replaced.

The Vestry, Rector and all those involved in the work of the Finance Committee, seek to present the REAL PICTURE ...A NARRATIVE BUDGET so that each of you has an opportunity to understand, question and discuss what we do with what we have. At the Annual Meeting in 2008, the Operating Budget for the coming year will be presented.

We have included our IMAGINE! Lists, knowing that all may not be realized in the coming year. These lists are not in any way complete or conclusive but rather a start to get us imagining the possibilities. After all, no *dreams* means no *action* and no *growth*.

We Love to Tell our Story!!

God is doing wondrous work at St. Paul's.
The ministry at St. Paul's is an exciting and vital story.
St. Paul's is making a difference in peoples' lives.
St. Paul's is worthy of your support.

Our Story Needs You !!

St. Paul's needs you.
St. Paul's needs your continued and increased support.
We encourage you to prayerfully and thoughtfully consider your pledge and to
consider working towards the tithe.

Our Story Belongs to God!!

**It is God's work.
To God be the glory!**