

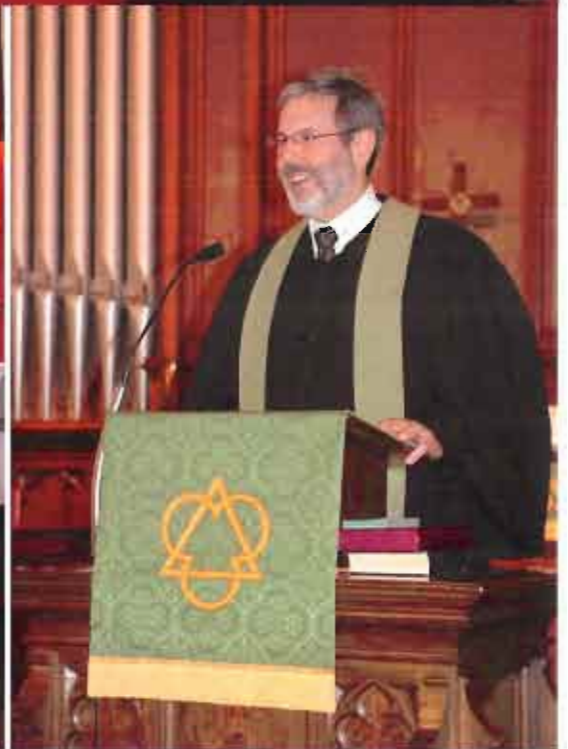
The Mission
of our church is...



Bethany United Church of Christ

1235 Broad Boulevard - Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

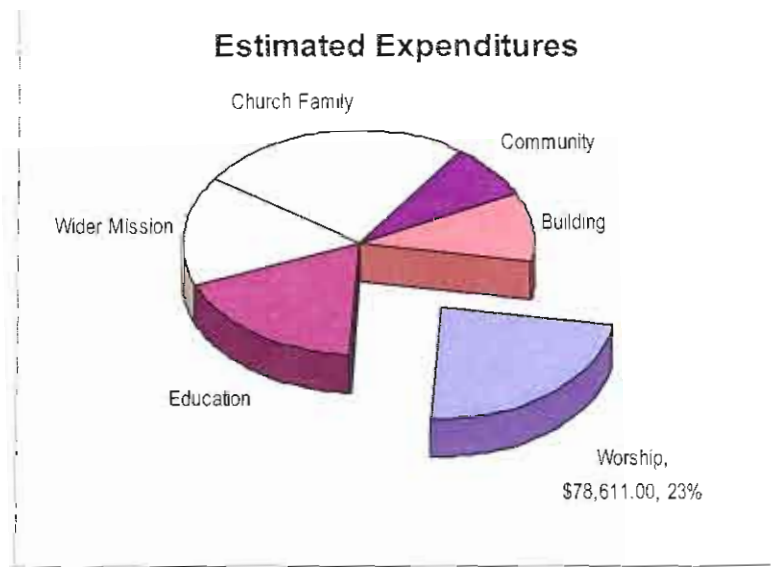
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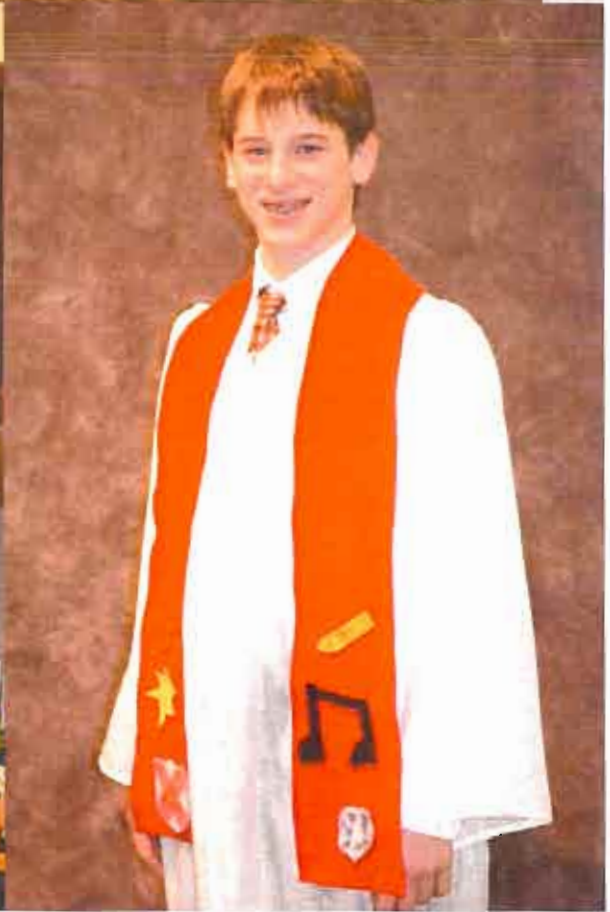


Worship

To Establish a Christian Congregation for Worship -

Worship is central to our congregational life. Planning for Sunday morning worship services, preparing sermons, conducting weddings, funerals and other special services requires a significant amount of time from our pastor, staff and lay people. Music is selected, purchased and rehearsed. Vocal and bell choirs along with the organist and other musicians add to the joy of worship. Candles are lit, the ushers distribute bulletins and the congregation gathers to celebrate Word and Sacrament.



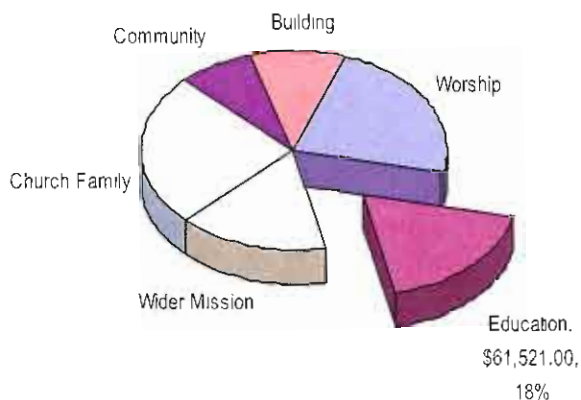


Education

To Educate Our Children, Youth and Adults -

Our pastor and Christian Education Department develop programs for learners of all ages. Classes are available every Sunday morning and Bible Studies are offered at various times during the week. Our middle school students prepare for Confirmation through a combination of classroom study, service projects, music options and mentoring. The Youth Fellowship meets to learn, share and serve. Christian Education grows our hearts and minds, helps us tell the story and hear it anew.

Estimated Expenditures



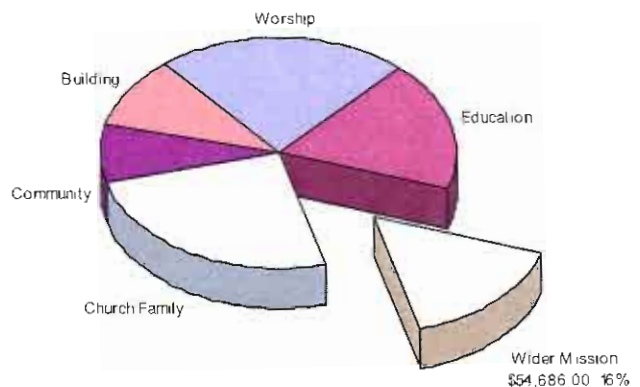


Wider Mission

To advance the Realm of God at Home and Abroad -

Bethany's work extends far beyond our own community. Through our support of the work carried on by the Eastern Ohio Association, the Ohio Conference and the national ministries of the United Church of Christ, we minister to many people in our state, nation and around the world. Through our budget, we provide basic support of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and support theological education. In addition to the amount listed below, the Mission Committee distributes support to numerous local and national mission outreach programs.

Estimated Expenditures



We Love to Tell the Story!

We love to tell the story of Bethany Church, through words and pictures, but most of all through the work of the people.

Our story is told through the sharing of the Word in sermons, liturgy and music; it is told through the sharing of our lives together in fellowship with one another; it is told through our mission and ministry in the community, in our nation and throughout the world. The story that we share is one of many ministries that thrive in our congregation and touch many lives.

Each January, our Finance Committee presents a detailed budget for the coming year and outlines these amounts in two ways. The first is a traditional line-item budget, used as part of our financial accounting system. For the past several years, a narrative budget, a “Mission Spending Plan” has been used to tell the story of how our budget is allocated. This booklet is another way to interpret that plan, by describing many of the things that happen here at Bethany Church and showing that they are made possible by the generous giving and faithful sharing of time, talents and treasures of this family of faith.

We hope the words and pictures on these pages paint a beautiful family portrait of our church—a vibrant and inspiring image of our life together. May it encourage you to spend thoughtful, prayerful time to consider how God is calling you to give back a portion of what you have received, in gratitude and commitment, in compassion and care. The Scriptures

teach us that all that we have and all that we are come to us as gifts from God. Our giving to the church is one way to say “thank you” for all that we have received, as well as sharing God’s hope for a better world.

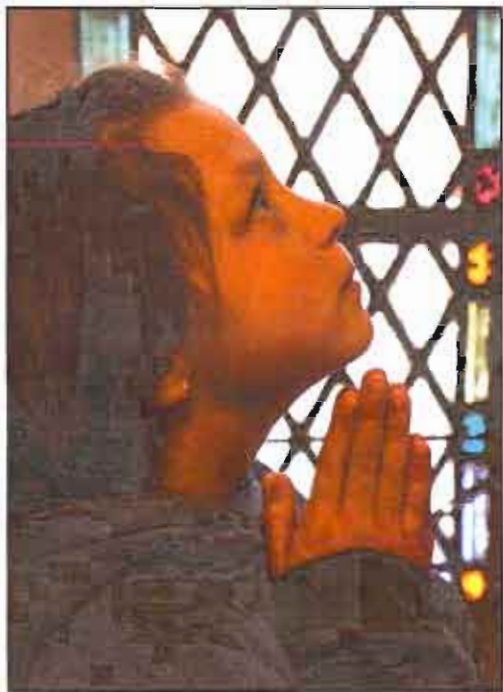
The extraordinary generosity of so many people through the years who have shared their time in worship, service and fellowship, the outpouring of talents given through our many ministries, and the sharing of our treasures by bringing our tithes and offerings, all contribute to making Bethany a place of wonderful welcome.

Bethany Church has come this far, by faith. By faith we will travel on, together, seeking God’s guidance and presence in all that we do. We invite you to prayerfully consider your

Estimate of Giving to Bethany United Church of Christ for the coming year and, as you are able, to grow your giving each year.

Thank you for your faithful generosity!

The Bethany Church
Stewardship Committee

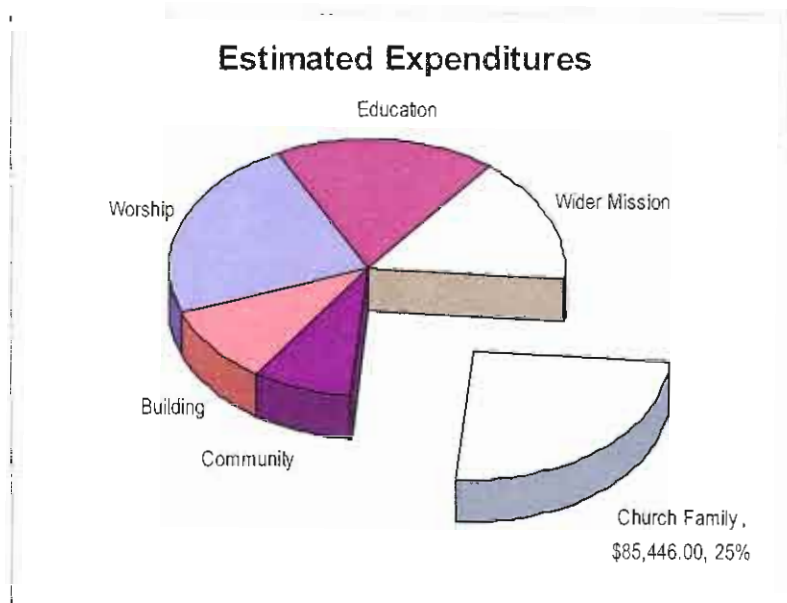




Church Family

To Care for Our Church Family -

Pastoral care is a vital part of our ministry, especially for persons who are ill, hospitalized, bereaved or facing other crises in their lives. Elders provide home communion for homebound members. A van is available for transportation to and from services and other church events. The Bethany Letter keeps us in touch and lifts up those who need our prayers. We share times of fellowship in Social Hours, retreats and Bethany Buckeyes.



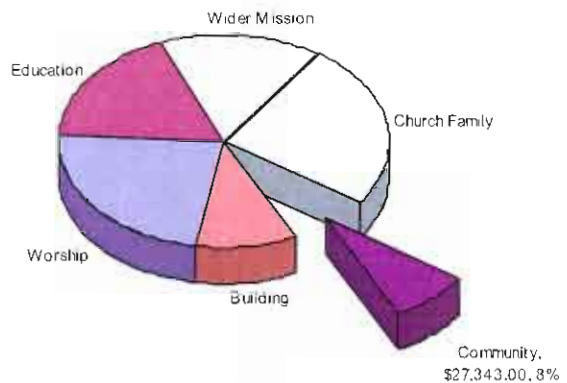


Community

To Reach Out to Serve Our Community -

We reach out to serve our community in numerous ways using our facilities as a host congregation for Interfaith Hospitality Network, Bethany Kitchen, Scout Troops and as a setting for various community gatherings. Our pastors also provide services to non-members and participate in community activities. In addition, our facilities serve as a child care center during the week. We partner with both Miller Avenue United Church of Christ (a mission church located in the Summit Lake area of Akron) and New Trinity Baptist Church to work together for a better tomorrow. Annual mission trips help build houses in Mexico and provide a Bible School and fellowship with Native American children in South Dakota.

Estimated Expenditures

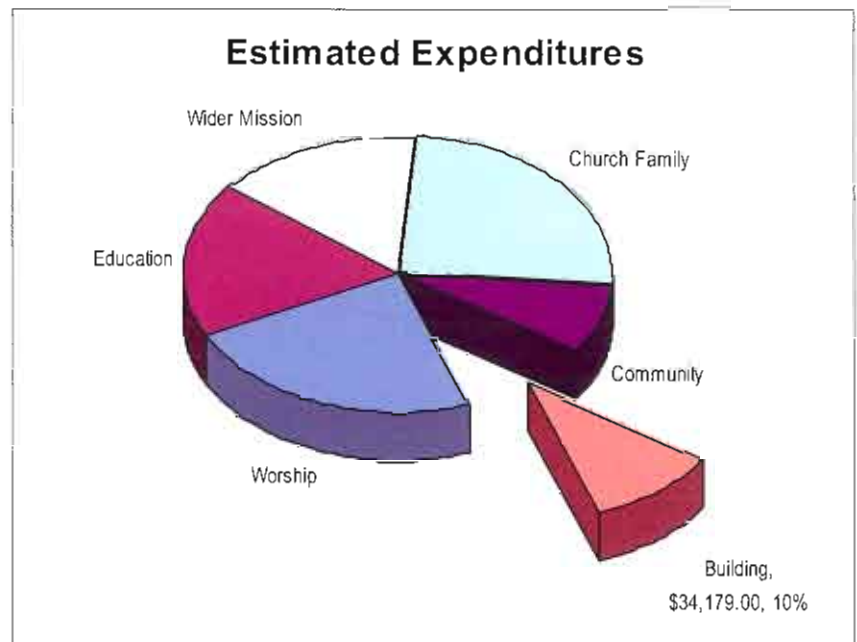




Building

To Equip and Maintain Our Building -

Whether in use by our congregation, the child care center or various community groups, our building provides the gathering place. Our custodians and Property Committee take great care with our facilities, including preventative maintenance, energy conservation, updates and repairs. Clean up days are held to keep our facilities well maintained and welcoming to all.



The Purpose of our church is...

To establish a Christian congregation for worship,

To preach and teach the Gospel of Christ,

To celebrate the sacraments,

To render loving service toward humanity,

To strive for righteousness, justice and peace,

To advance the Realm of God at home and abroad.

(The Bethany Constitution)



*We join in mission to our community, nation
and world, working for the justice and
peace which are God's will for
all humanity.*