

# United Church of Christ Narrative Budget -- 2007





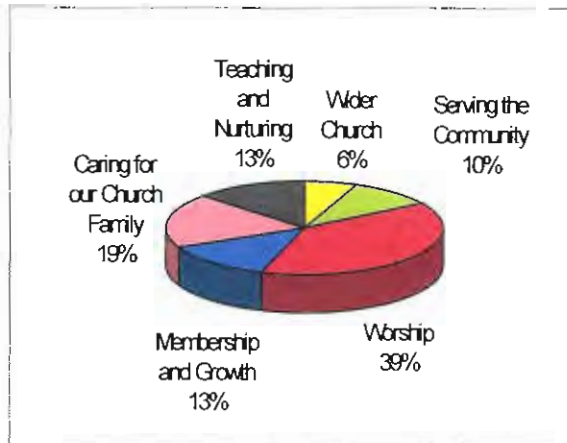
Dear UCC Church Family,

Here in your hands is a visual depiction of our life together, our ministry together, and our love for each other. How do you measure the value of our confirmation students' statement of faith that says, "we believe that if you listen to your heart, you will hear God" and "we believe that God wants us to spread his word"? How do you put a number on the joy we all felt when the new parking lot was finished? How do we count our blessings when we support our local food shelf Gift's of Love with more jars of jelly and noodles than can fit in a shopping cart!

One thing we know for sure here at the UCC: we care about each other and our community. As you look through these pages, you will see all the different ways that we take the time to care. You may be surprised at what you see! I am continually amazed at the generous spirit that overflows from this place. God is surely in this place! As we plan together for the coming year it is so important for all of us to renew our commitment to the vibrant ministries of this church. Take a look inside these pages and see how WE have the honor to be Christ's hands and feet! Let us with joy and thanksgiving answer God's call to be generous in supporting Christ's mission in the world.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Sarah



## Our Overall Mission

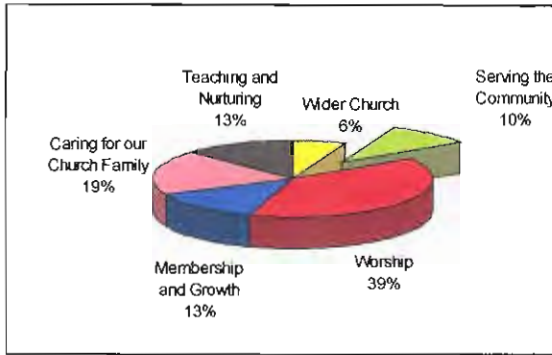
**The overall mission of our church is determined by the support of our members, associate members and friends. We currently have 162 members, 25 associate members, and 123 individuals who have not**

become members, but regularly attend services and who we call friends of our church. We call on members, associate members and friends to support the mission of their church.

We estimate that the cost of accomplishing God's mission for our Church family and our Community for the year 2007 will be \$201,500. Our expenses include salaries, occupancy costs, debt service, insurance and many other costs which are necessary to do God's work through our missions. However, these costs are more meaningful when viewed as to their purpose or mission. Therefore, we allocated those costs not directly identified with a mission of the church, (such as electricity) to our missions based on the per cent of the Pastor's time spent on each activity.



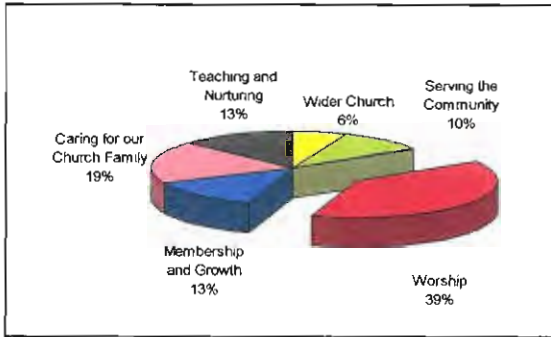
The following pages will describe in detail how your generosity will serve the needs of our church family and outreach to others in need.



**Supporting the Wider Church \$12,848 6%**

Our mission extends far beyond our church family and our local community. In 2007, we will continue to support the Christian work carried on by the Conference and the national agencies of the United Church of Christ, through which we provide services to the congregations in our vicinity and minister to many people in our state, nation, and other countries.

The Ministries Department supports programs not only in our community, but throughout the world. In 1977, we will support One Great Hour of Sharing, Strength the Church, Neighbors in Need and Veterans of the Cross. We will also have Blanket Sunday and Tool Sunday. We support the Church Women United with a representative from our congregation, participating and attending the monthly meetings. Through this group we are hoping to host World of Prayer this year.



**Supporting Music And Worship** **\$80,992**  
**40%**

Worship is central to our congregation's life and ministry. Planning for Sunday morning worship, researching for and preparing sermons and other special services, such as baptisms, weddings and funerals, all require a significant amount of our pastor's time.

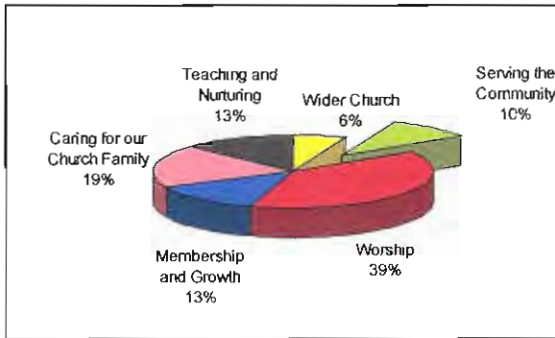
Our worship life also includes:

- Purchasing and printing regular and large print bulletins
- Supplying flowers, candles and communion elements
- Providing ushers and lay readers
- Decorating the church for Advent season

Our music director consults with the pastor, reviews, selects, purchases, records music and plays at the 10:30 & 8:30 services. He selects music for the choir conducts rehearsals and records music for accompaniment and practice. He also sees to it that the pianos and organ are tuned regularly.

Our worship budget also must provide for the cost of guest ministers in absence of our pastor.



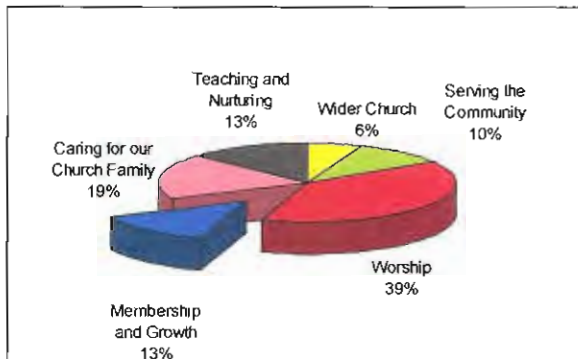


**Outreach to Our Community** **\$19,392** **10%**

The completion of our new building allows us to expand our outreach to the children and adults of our community in areas of education, social interaction and sharing with those in need.

In 2006, Teens In Action put in over 800 hours of community service helping area families in need with clothing, food and gifts. They adopted a mile of beach; helped with-- worship services; fellowship functions; area food drives; babysitting; the UCC Art Camp; the Back to School Backpack program and hosted a Christmas party for the Domestic Abuse Shelter clients. In a week- long mission trip to south Florida, our teens helped with a construction project for a deaf center (roof, deck and a concrete walkway). In 2007, our Teens in Action will outreach with similar projects, specifically helping Gifts of Love, the Crop Walk and will continue helping the area's needy

The Ministries department supports our community every day through the Gifts of Love by the food we donate each month, which is given to families in need. The money donated goes to help with utilities, rent and medication. We also provide a hot meal once a month.



## Inviting Others to \$25,336 Share Our Life 13%

We spend money to advertise in the yellow pages and send articles to newspapers to let the community know of our presence and our programs. We are a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Pastor Sarah attends two functions each month to make the community more aware of who we are. We publish the Voice, a monthly newsletter, to inform our membership and others of our activities. We participate in the "Adopt a Road" project and pick up trash four times a year on two local roads. Our sign is prominently displayed on those roads.

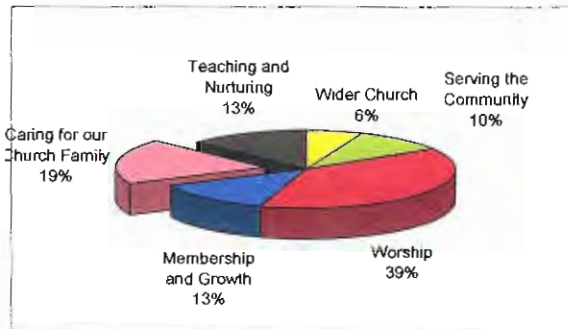
We also:

- Greet visitors
- Prepare and hand out visitor adult and children welcome bags
- Mail letters
- Follow up with potential new members
- Hold new member socials
- Offer weekly fellowship hour
- Change the motivational message on the church sign

Through our website ([www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)) we provide information to any interested party.

Our new building will now provide more opportunity to invite others to share in social interaction and in educational

When visitors express serious interest in our church, we offer a series of meetings to instruct and help them feel welcome to our church family.



## Caring for our Church Family **\$37,687** **19%**

Pastoral care is a vital part of our work, especially for persons who are ill, hospitalized, bereaved, preparing for marriage, going through a divorce or facing other crises.



Our six Stephen Ministers and three leaders are trained Christian caregivers, who make confidential weekly visits to members or friends with emotional or physical problems. It maybe the loss of a loved one, a terminal illness, divorce, loneliness, job loss or a spiritual crises.

Our pastor checks on shut-ins, provides transportation as needed, counsels and consoles those who are suffering.

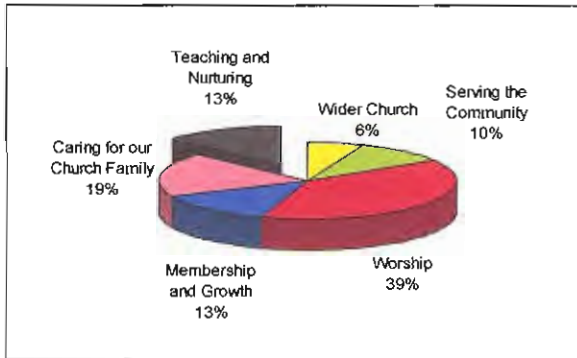


We purchase literature and other resources for people with special needs.

Our church secretary provides a friendly ear, as well as, a phone contact for shut-ins. She also coordinates all functions taking place in our buildings and prepares and provides information for monthly Church Council Meetings and for the Annual Meeting of Members.

Our monthly newsletter (the Voice), occasional letters, our directory, the bulletin inserts, weekly fellowship hour and other social events, including the annual picnic are all part of sustaining our common life.





**Educating our Children, \$25,335**  
**Youths and Adults 13%**

Christians are made, not born; we are always just one generation away from disappearing as a church.

The Chez Republic is over 90% atheist, because religious education was not allowed under the former communist rule and although their beautiful churches abound, they are no longer used for worship.

We now have a major investment in our new Education and Administration building, which affords us with the opportunity to expand and reach out to our church family and the community with a variety of educational programs, meetings seminars and other events.

We are currently holding weekly Sunday school classes, adult bible studies.

Teens In Action hold weekly meetings, which focus on fellowship, discussions and Bible studies and include occasional speakers from Church and from the community.



# The United Church of Christ of New Smyrna Beach



No matter who you are or where  
you are on life's journey you  
are welcome here.

