



*Here's your new*

**Mission  
Plan  
Book  
2003**

C H U R C H O F T H E  
**REDEEMER**



CHURCH OF THE  
**REDEEMER**  
United Church of Christ

23500 Center Ridge Road Westlake, Ohio 44145  
440/331-0834 FAX: 440/331-2897 [www.redeemerucc.net](http://www.redeemerucc.net)

Pentecost 2002

Dear Friends in Christ,

Don't read this book the wrong way.

These descriptions and pictures of our mission do not show what we have done with our money; they show what *God* has done with God's gifts to us—money and otherwise.

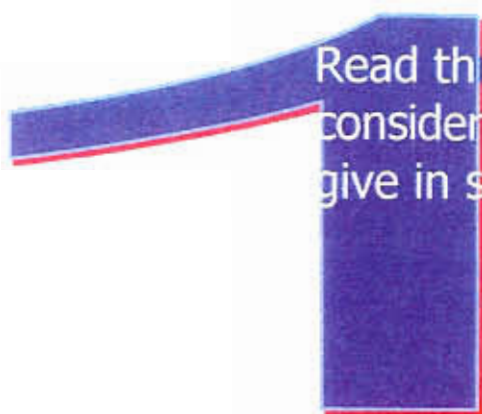
The Stewardship Team offers this book as a reminder of how wonderfully God has blessed us. I hope you feel joy at seeing the ways in which we are able to bring the power and love of God into the lives of others as we celebrate it in our own.

The plans for mission that are contained here won't falter for lack of enough money. God will see that this work is carried out by someone. If you base your giving on what you think is "needed," you reduce it to a transaction. Instead I hope you'll give out of a desire to thank God for what you have, and a commitment to take part in what God has called us to do.

Indeed, I hope you'll give *more* than you have before—again, not because it's "needed," but because increased giving promotes increased growth in your spiritual life. I have never met a generous person who was unhappy, and I've never met a contented person who was ungenerous.

God has granted us an abundance of gifts and the opportunity to share them. The fact that giving some of our substance away also accomplishes great things is an added blessing. I invite you to multiply your joy and that of others by giving freely to this great work.

Faithfully,



Read through this Mission Plan Book and consider prayerfully how much you will give in support of your church's work

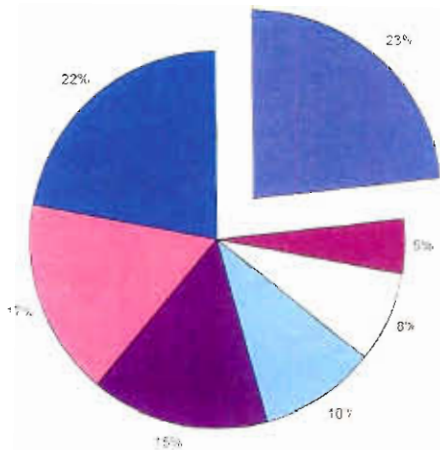


Fill out the estimate-of-giving card in the pocket and return the card on Sunday, November 10, or by mail to the church



Deliver the Plan Book as soon as possible to the next person listed in the front (if you are unable to make a delivery, please call the Stewardship Team member whose name appears here)





*The wider mission of the church receives roughly twenty-three per cent of the total annual budget (and we actually give more than 30%).*

Our church is one of the highest in mission giving of the four hundred churches of the Ohio Conference.

## Reaching Out in

**Mission**.....\$49,000

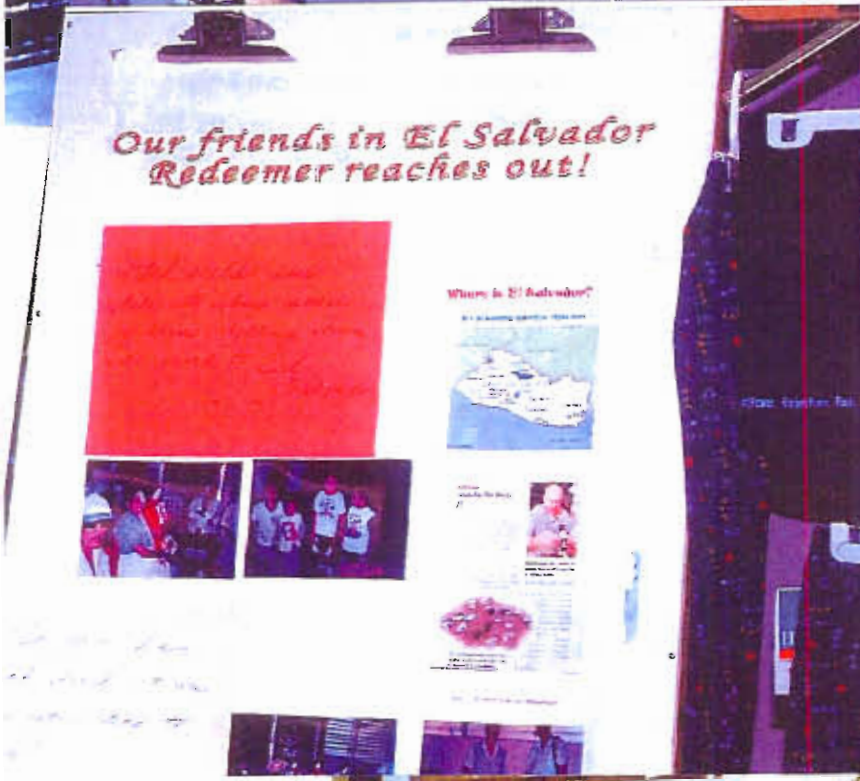
*In keeping with our policy of giving proportionately to support the wider mission of our church, about a quarter of our mission extends far beyond our own community. Through our support of the work carried on by the Ohio Conference and the national agencies of the United Church of Christ we minister around the world.*

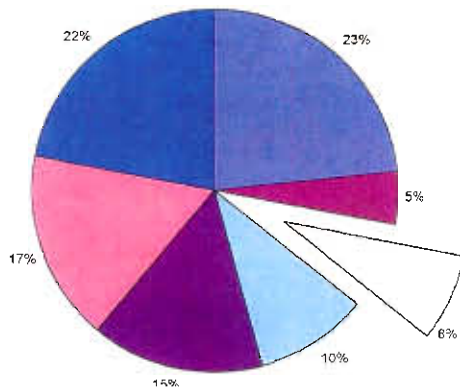
*We do this currently through \$25,000 for support of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), \$8,500 for support of local organizations that address hunger and homelessness (some of which are included under "Serving the Community") , \$2,000 for support of missionary work sponsored through the Western Reserve Association, \$8,500 for UCC Special Offerings (such as Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Blanket Sunday, Veterans of the Cross).*

*We also support seminaries, church-related colleges, emergency action efforts throughout the world, Habitat for Humanity projects, and a child in the Philippines, Ana Sheila Lacson.*

*Our per capita giving to mission is the second-highest in northeast Ohio; we give more than churches two or three times our size. The health of our church is due to our being one of the highest in mission giving of the four hundred churches of the Ohio Conference.*







*Our mission in the Greater Cleveland community makes up about eight per cent of our spending.*

**Our MS riders are among the top fundraisers of the 1500 who “pedal to the Point” each summer.**

## Serving the Community... \$15,800

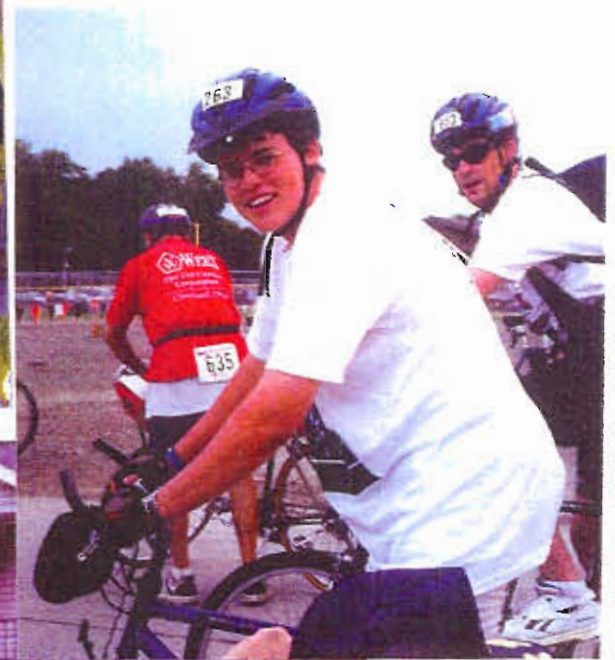
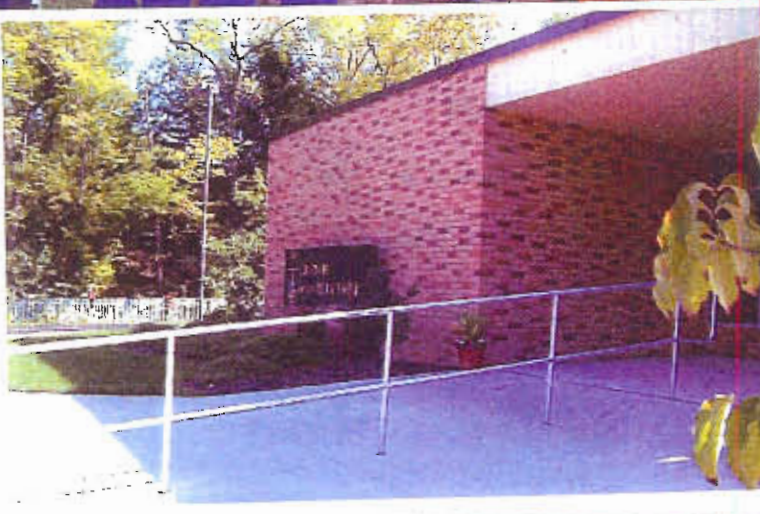
*We provide comfortable meeting space for groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Boy and Girl Scouts, and a local center for support of the developmentally disabled. We also provide private space for outside pastoral counseling where personal healing takes place.*

*Our Women's Workshop works on various Christian service projects for groups such as Head Start, the USO, and Metro-General Hospital. Our younger members, through various cycling and walking efforts, raise money to support agencies such as the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and CROP. (Our MS riders are among the top fundraisers of the 1500 who “pedal to the Point” each summer.)*

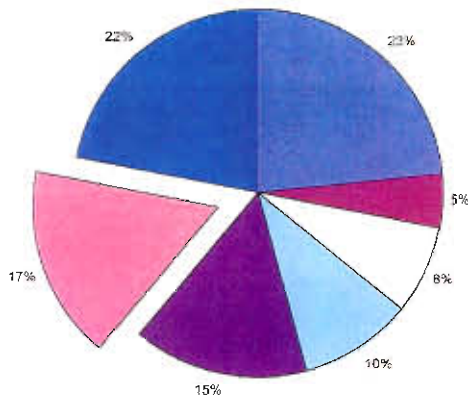
*Our Church in Society committee, in addition to wider efforts, oversees our support of local missions, including hunger centers, United Protestant Campus Ministries, a battered women's shelter, and job training through West Side Ecumenical Ministries. We join with Dover UCC in the nationwide Interfaith Hospitality Network, providing safe shelter and meals for homeless families several weeks each year.*

*Monthly collections of various goods at church—our “ingathering”—also provide food, personal care items, school supplies, clothing, and Christmas gifts for the less fortunate.*









*The costs associated with music and worship come to approximately seventeen per cent of our mission plan.*

**New for 2003 is a part-time position for an Assistant Music Director.**

## Supporting Music and Worship.....\$36,975

*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 part of our pastor's time (thus much of his compensation is reflected in this figure).

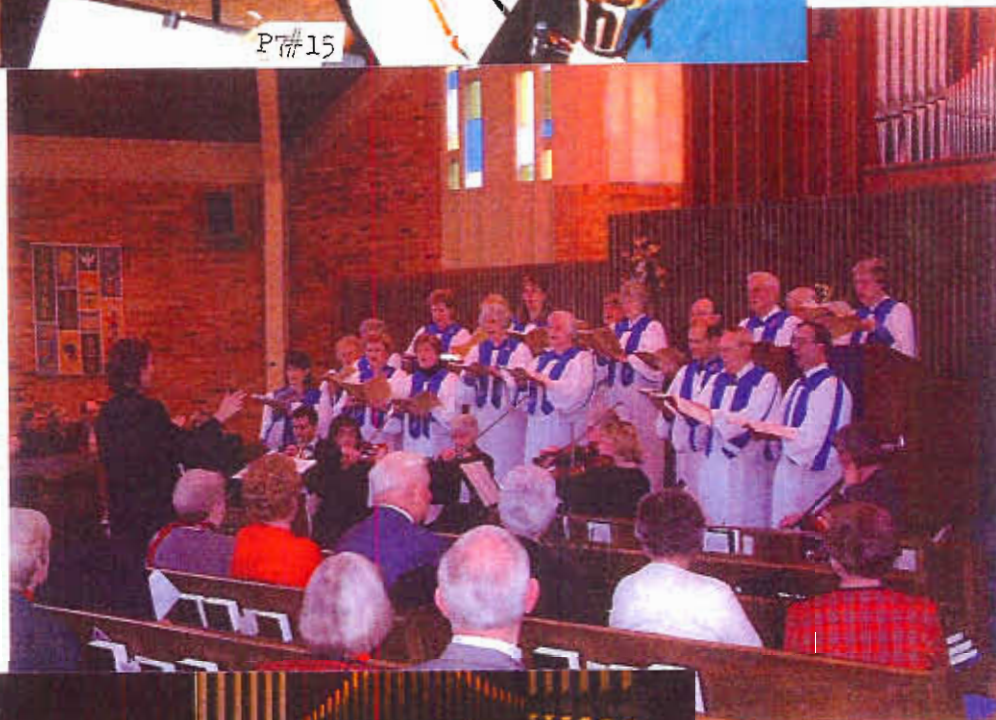
*Our worship life also involves:*

- purchasing and printing adult, children's, and large-print bulletins
- supplying hearing aids, microphones, flowers, candles and communion elements
- providing acolytes, ushers, and lay readers.

*Our organist* consults with the pastor, reviews, selects, and purchases music, plans and conducts rehearsals for the adult, children's, and bell choirs, and practices the organ. His duties also include seeing to it that the organ is kept in tune and in working order. In addition to providing for regular and special services, he also arranges special public events and recitals.

*Our mission plan for 2003* includes a part-time intern position for a student to serve as an assistant music director. This will increase the number and type of worship experiences, strengthen our children's music program, and expand the possibilities for special musical events.





## Inviting Others to Share Our Life ....\$9,475

*About 5 per cent of  
our ministry is aimed  
at attracting and  
holding new  
members.*

*We spend money* to advertise, make posters and flyers, and send mailings to let the community know of our programs. We pay to produce or purchase literature about our congregation and the denomination, plus other helpful handouts.

*We also:*

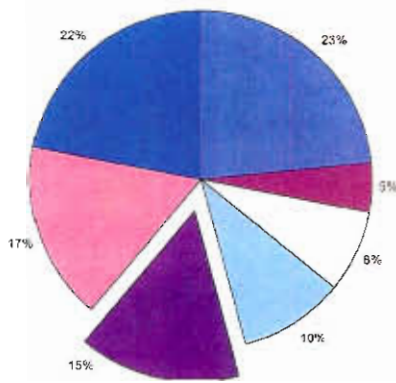
- greet visitors
- send around a guest pad
- mail follow-up letters
- offer child care and a weekly Fellowship Hour.

*Through our website*

([www.redeemerucc.net](http://www.redeemerucc.net)) we provide information to our members and visitors from all over—to the tune of two or three hundred per week! When visitors express more serious interest, we offer a series of classes with a large packet of material to help them feel oriented to our life. We offer special musical events each year that are open to the public, helping create awareness of our presence in the community. Our annual “Journey to Bethlehem” reaches hundreds of people with the message of God’s love as well as a message about the excitement and sense of shared ministry we enjoy at our church.







*About fifteen per cent of our mission support is for internal ministry of various kinds.*

**Volunteers  
spend hours  
each week  
attending to  
financial,  
educational, and  
organ-izational  
tasks.**

## **Caring for Our Church Family ....\$35,050**

*We all share the ministry of pastoral care, and it is a vital part of our work.*

*Our pastor visits with people who are ill, hospitalized, and bereaved; he also counsels those preparing for marriage, going through divorce, or facing other crises.*

*The pastor and our Caregiving Committee check on shut-ins, provide transportation as needed, and send out "home devotions."*

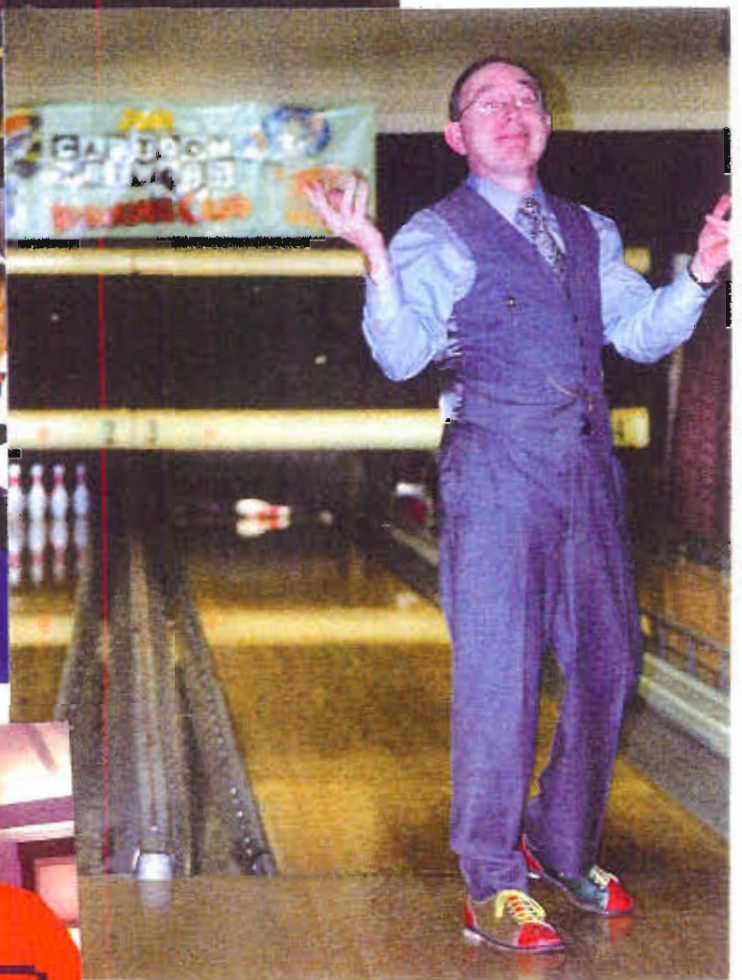
*Our prayer chain prays for members and their concerns.*

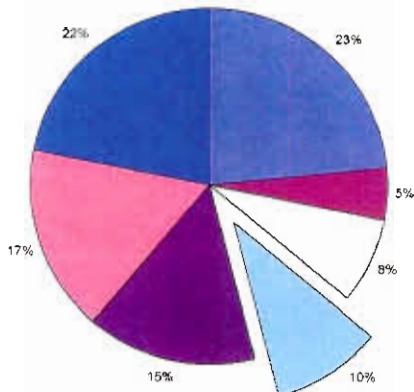
*We purchase literature and other resources for people with special needs.*

*Our church secretary provides a friendly ear as well as phone contacts with shut-ins. In addition, she coordinates all functions taking place in the building and provides information and other services, including the preparation of reports for the Annual Meeting.*

*Besides the cost of staff, volunteers spend hours each week attending to financial, educational, and organizational tasks. The expenses related to producing our Sunday bulletin insert, monthly newsletter, annual directory, weekly fellowship hour, and other special gatherings are also part of sustaining our common life.*







*This portion of our mission accounts for about ten per cent of the total.*

**We are always just one generation away from disappearing as a church.**

## Teaching and Nurturing Our Members.....\$19,500

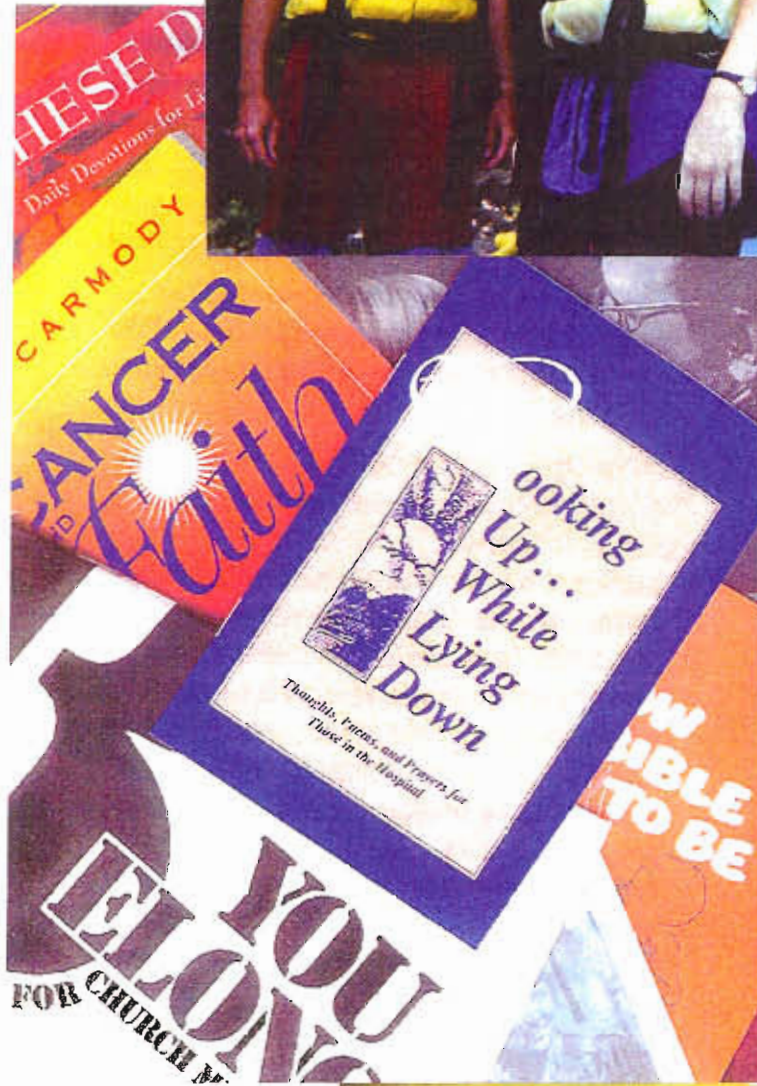
*Christians are made, not born; we are always just one generation away from disappearing as a church. We accordingly make a major investment of effort and money in telling the story of faith to our members. This includes:*

- the cost of supplying of a nursery
- buying equipment and materials for classrooms
- the purchase of curriculum.

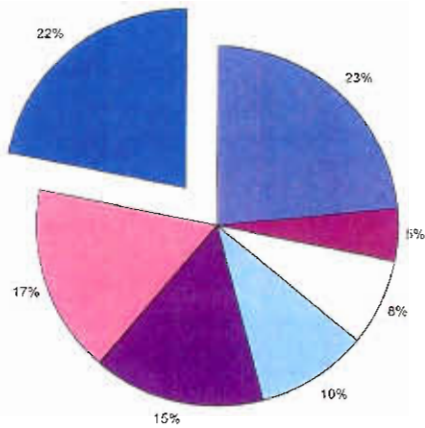
*We fund a substantial confirmation program with expenses for books, class outings, and gifts. We spend some money on various activities for our senior-highs, such as whitewater rafting and camping—though they return more than that in mission support!*

*We always have ongoing adult classes and one or two short-term studies each year that require some funding. A sizable portion of our pastor's time and leadership goes to this area of ministry (and so part of his compensation is included in this area of our mission plan).*









*Supporting our mission with a safe, up-to-date facility takes about twenty-two per cent of our budget.*

**Our church's maintenance and operations costs rise by almost ten per cent each year.**

## Equipping and Maintaining Our Facilities.....\$47,100

*Our building and property are in peak condition, with an attractive and useful Gathering Room, a lovely chapel and columbarium, air conditioned sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, a well-lit parking lot, safety handrails inside and out, and more.*

*This year we completed renovations of our Christian Education wing, including carpet, lighting, and wall treatments in the Sunday School rooms and a brighter hallway. We also budget an annual 1% to our Facilities Fund for contingency spending.*

*Unlike the average household's rate of inflation, which has been minimal for almost a decade, our church's maintenance and operations costs rise by almost ten per cent each year. This is due to the church's high consumption of items whose prices rise dramatically: paper products, books and other printed materials, service contracts on equipment, and so on. Utilities, taxes, insurance, general maintenance, and custodial services also continue to rise in price.*

*Our members and our staff have all responded to these challenges, making this a warm and welcoming house of worship. Our building and grounds create that important first impression on visitors, and say much about our health and confidence.*



