

**The Church of Our Saviour**  
*Practicing God's Graciousness*



*Stewardship  
&  
Mission*

**Mid-Year Parish Meeting**  
**August 14, 2011**

# Opening Prayer

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**The world asks -  
How much do you give?**

**Jesus Christ asks -  
Why do you give?**

**(John Raleigh Mott)**

**The culture of the world, and  
society at large says:**

**It's mine, I bought it, I own it.**

**I want it and I want it now.**

**There isn't enough, so get it now and keep it  
for yourself.**

**I'll do anything to get what I want.**

**Success equates to wealth and possessions.**

**Happiness depends on having everything I want.**

**God says:**

**I created everything & you are stewards of My creation.**

**I AM your sustainer and redeemer.**

**I know what you *need* and I will *provide*.**

**Love God, and love your neighbors as yourselves.**

**Care for all who are vulnerable.**

**Give generously, especially to those in need.**

## **Success is defined as faithfulness (Matthew 25:21).**

“His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!  
You have been faithful with a few things;  
I will put you in charge of many things.  
Come and share your master's happiness!'"

## **Faith in action looks like serving others with goodness, justice, kindness, and humility (Micah 6:8).**

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice,  
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

**Life and salvation, healing and hope, love, joy & peace are found in Me (Matthew 16:26, John 3:16, John 10:10).**

“For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?”

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

# What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is first, foremost,  
and always, a spiritual matter.

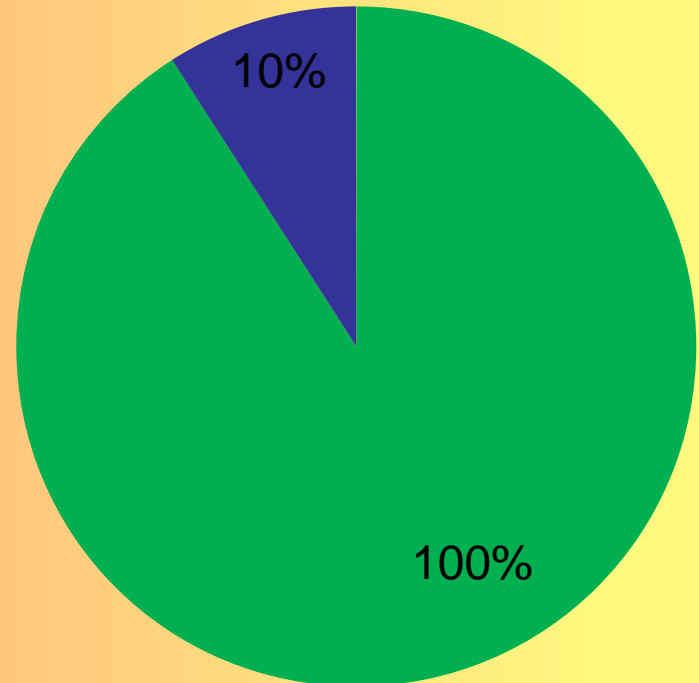
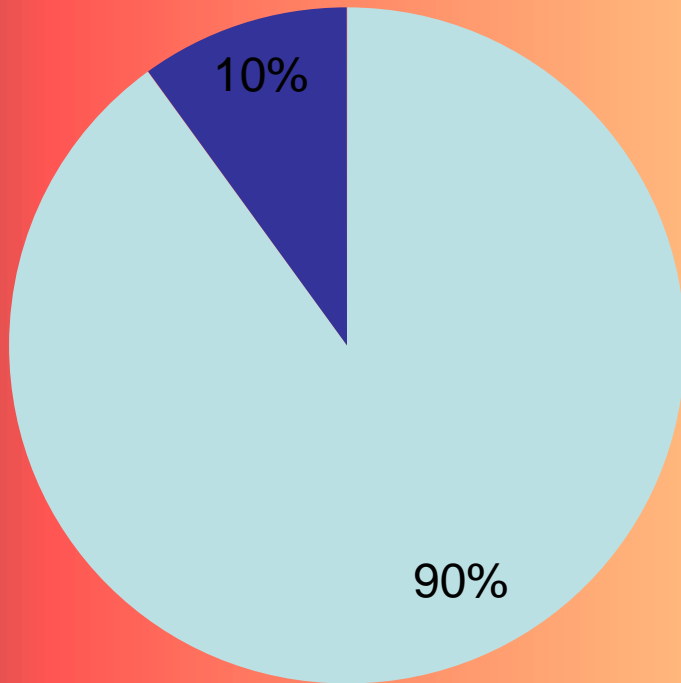
Stewardship is a part of Christian living  
– part of *being* a disciple.

*The real bottom line of Christian stewardship  
is more than just a dollar sign.*

*The bottom line of all Christian stewardship  
is Jesus Christ....*

# Two Perspectives of Resources

■ 90% Ours   ■ 10% God's Work   ■ 100% God's   ■ 10% God's Work



# **Stewardship & Christian Living**

- *It all belongs to God!*
- Grounded in a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Liberating! It's part of our freedom in Christ.
- Faithfully acknowledges God's abundance vs. the world's message of scarcity.
- What we do and how we live after we say "Yes" to Jesus Christ.
- A grateful response for all God has done for us.
- Practicing God's Graciousness.

# **Theology of Stewardship:** *It all belongs to God*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth....  
God blessed humankind and said to them, "... have dominion ...  
over every living thing that moves upon the earth." *Genesis 1:1, 27-28*

For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.  
*1Chronicles 29:14*

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world,  
and those who live in it;" *Psalms 24:1*

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. *Matthew 6:21*

"No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one  
and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other.  
You cannot serve God and wealth." *Matthew 6:24*

# **Theology of Stewardship:** *It all belongs to God*

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. *1 Timothy 6:6-10*

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. *Matthew 14:19-21*

# Stewardship as *Relationship*



# Stewardship as *Discipleship*

As disciples of Jesus, God has blessed us as stewards to:

- ✓ Love God and our neighbor.
- ✓ Use God's gifts to do the work God has given us to do.
- ✓ Live and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Seek and establish justice, equality, and peace.
- ✓ Make purposeful (Christian) decisions and choices.
- ✓ Grow spiritual and be transformed in Christ.
- ✓ Establish God's kingdom on earth (Thy Will be done!)
- ✓ Give joyfully, generously and wisely.



# Stewardship as Gratitude

Celebrating Gratitude:  
*Five Weeks of Thanks*  
(Lent 2011)

In life  
our salvation  
is not found in things,  
but rather  
in the love of God  
and our response  
to that love.



Gratitude  
helps us to live humbly,  
and opens us to the  
abundance of God's love.

## **Stewardship *as Spirituality***

Stewardship is a concrete, outward and visible expression of our spiritual relationship with God.



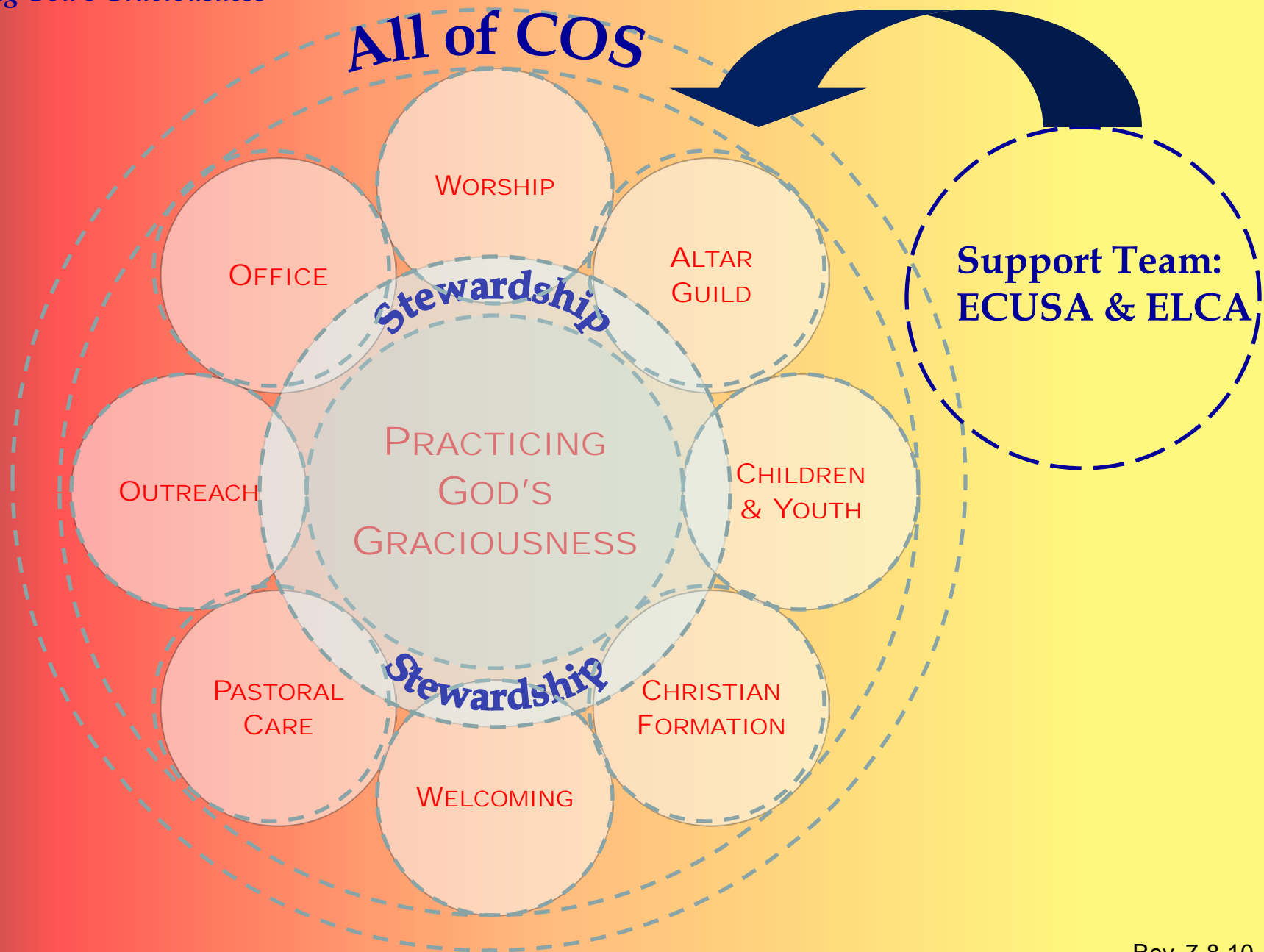


**Stewardship  
is at the heart  
of our community,  
our ministry,  
our mission.**



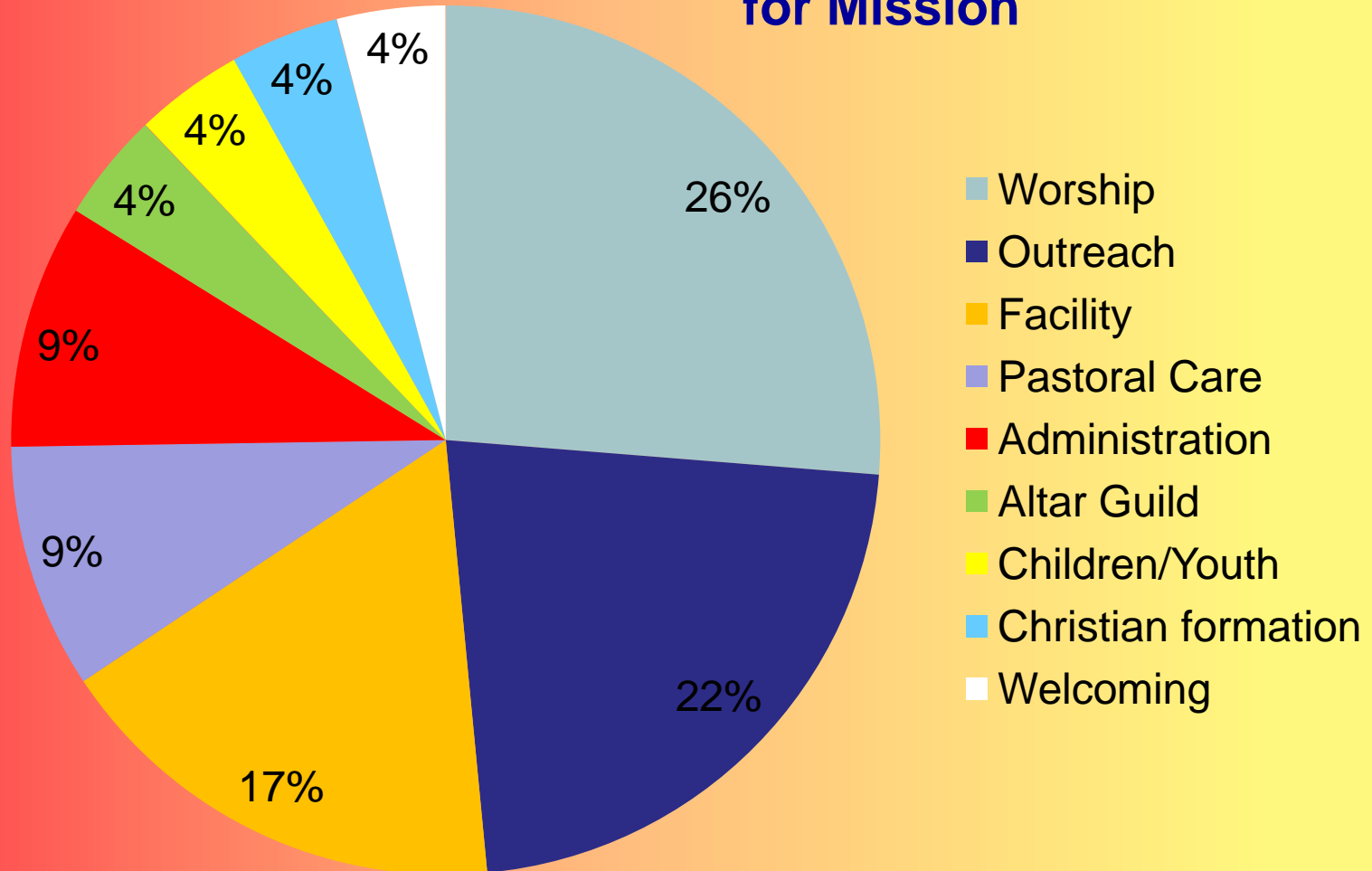
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# Stewards of Your Gifts – A Mission Shaped Parish

**% 2011 Budget by Ministry  
for Mission**



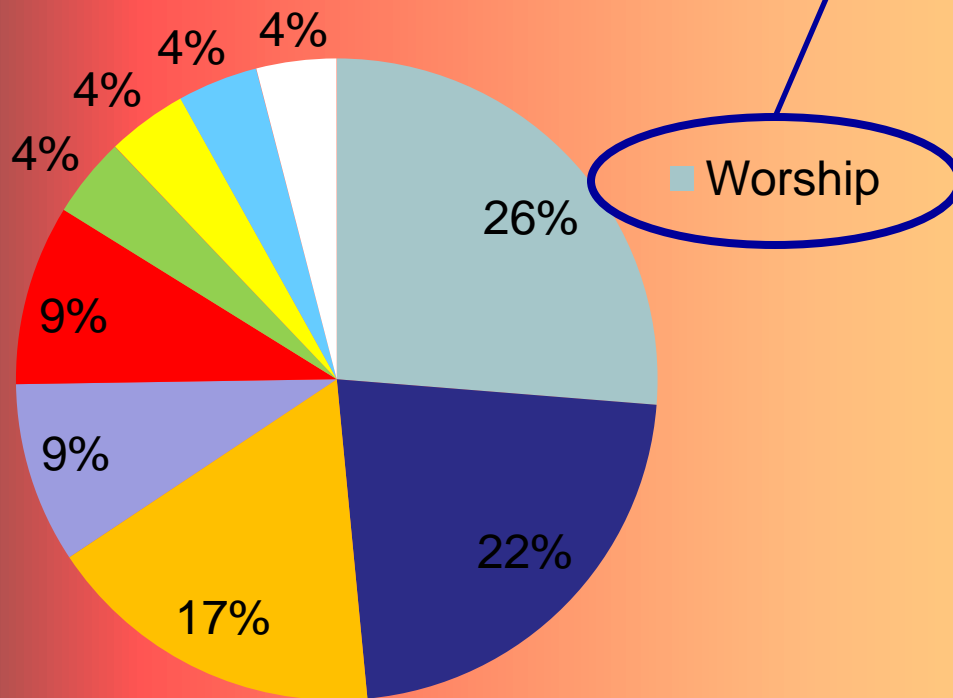
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## Worship is:

- ✓ how we honor God's first commandment;
- ✓ how we offer our whole selves to God in body, mind, and spirit;
- ✓ our grateful response for all God's gifts;
- ✓ how we share our gifts to build up the Body of Christ;
- ✓ transformational;
- ✓ the way we get closer to God;
- ✓ the way God fills us and strengthens us to do the work He has given us to do;
- ✓ hospitality, discipleship, grace, love, and stewardship in action.

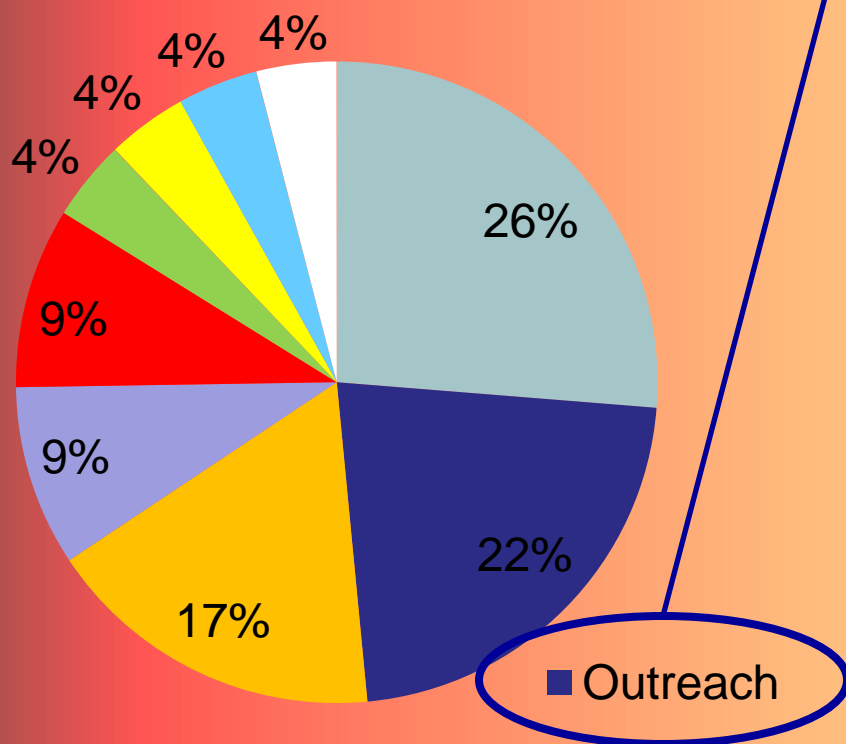
## % 2011 Budget by Ministry for Mission



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## % 2011 Budget by Ministry for Mission



### Outreach is:

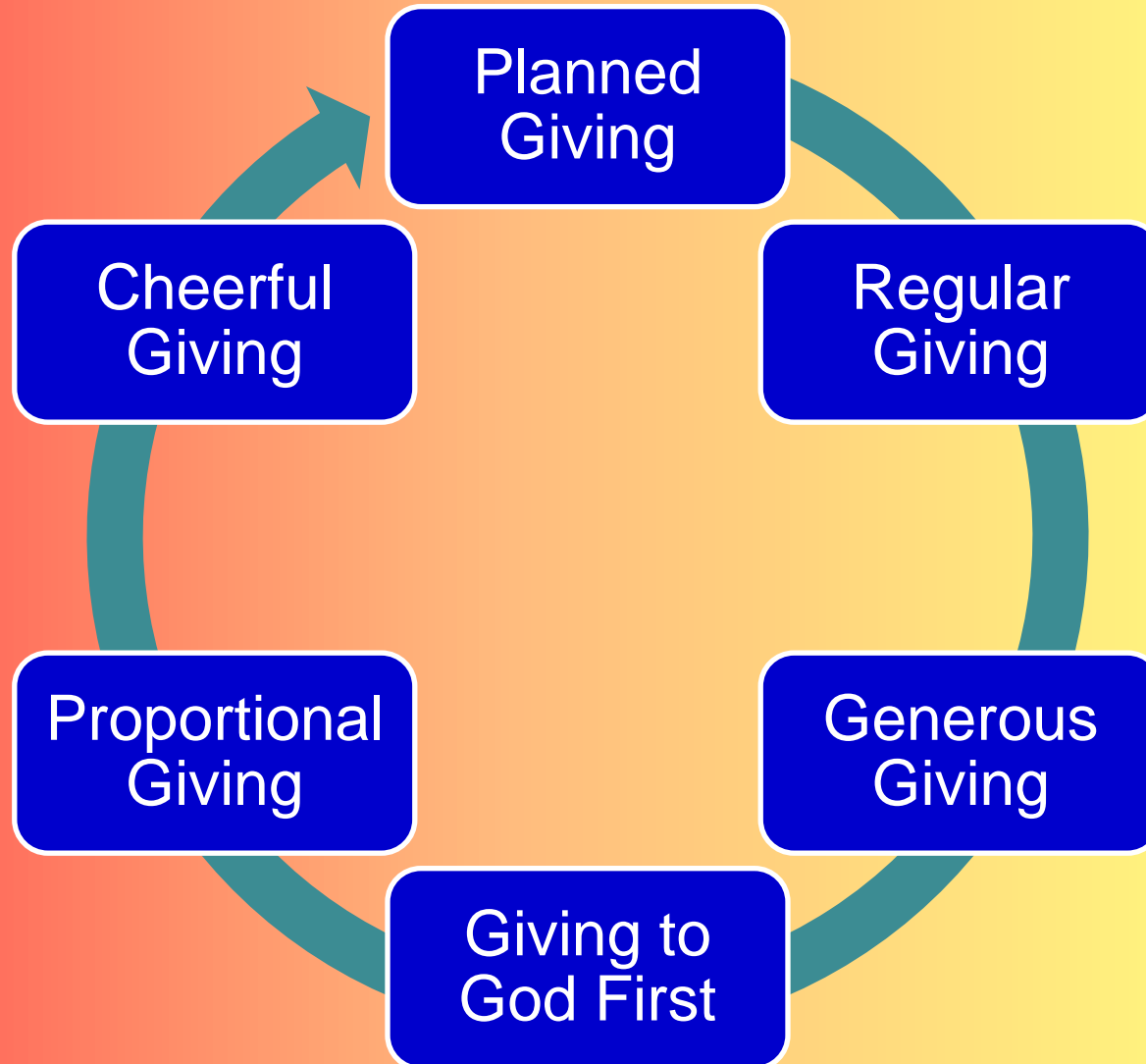
- ✓ biblically mandated faith in action - God's will and God's work!
- ✓ how we honor God's commandment to love, serve & help our neighbors;
- ✓ how we share our gifts to build up the Body of Christ;
- ✓ how we build relationships within and beyond our community of faith;
- ✓ being the Body of Christ in the world, and participating in growing God's kingdom;
- ✓ transformational;
- ✓ hospitality, discipleship, evangelism, justice, compassion, grace, love, and stewardship in action.

## **Stewardship as Faith and Trust in God**

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

(2 Corinthians 9:8)

# Characteristics and Values of a Biblical Giver



## **Jesus Christ asks - Why do we give?**

We give in order to grow, deepen and strengthen our relationship with God in Christ Jesus, through the purposeful giving and sharing of our God-given time, talent, and resources.