



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 PETER 4:10

GENEROUS LIVING 2023



STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

What is Generous Living?

Generous Living is the recognition that all we have is a gift from God, therefore gratitude and giving to others is an appropriate and ongoing response. We who have been blessed have a responsibility to share. Grace Church is committed to inspiring, caring and reaching out. You have the potential to contribute:

- ◆ Love
- ◆ Hope
- ◆ Knowledge
- ◆ Leadership
- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Time
- ◆ Money
- ◆ Skills
- ◆ Attention
- ◆ Advice

Your gifts of time, talent and treasure enable our church community to act and live generously. Members of the Session have made their leadership commitments, and urge you to give the information on the next pages your prayerful consideration.

*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds,
and to be generous and willing to share.*

*In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves
as a firm foundation for the coming age,
so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

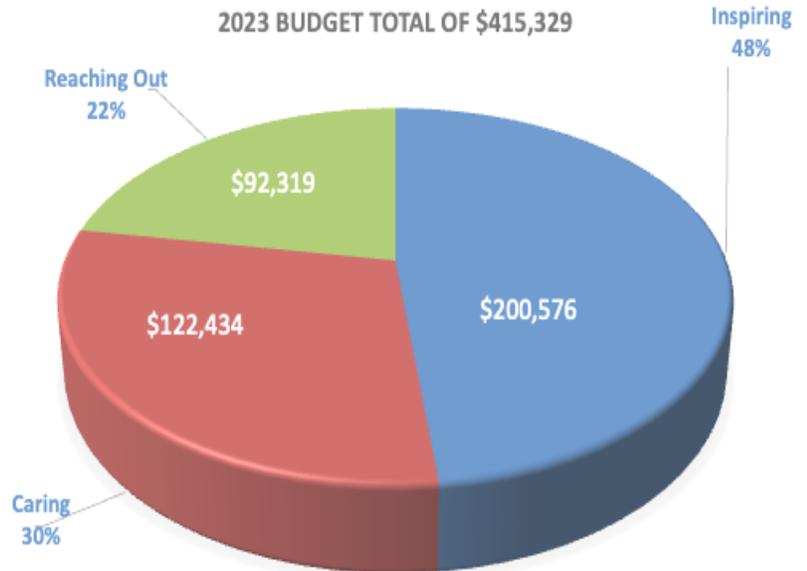
1 Timothy 6:17-19

The word stewardship means "oversight" and "responsibility for the use of a resource that does not belong to oneself." The story on this page highlights one of many ways Grace Church uses donated funds to sustain and advance our ministry.

INTRODUCTION

Again we are presenting our proposed budget in a narrative fashion, believing that telling the story of how income and expense translate to ministry will encourage and gratify donors. The purpose of generating income from pledges and other gifts, facilities rental and investments is to advance the work of the church.

This pie chart shows the expenses, including the allocation of staff time, of offering the **ministries of Inspiring, Caring, and Reaching Out.**



Inspiring \$200,576 - 48% of our \$415,329 budget

Our church inspires through worship and learning.

We celebrate the vibrancy of our **worship**, offering holy space for experiences of God. We gather as a community of faith to celebrate God's presence and listen for God's call to service in our world. Our pastors, working with the Worship and Education Team, prepare weekly and special worship services. We have a strong tradition of involving lay members in our worship. We offer Sunday worship at 10 am each week and special services. We make these services available to homebound people through Zoom, livestreaming and our website.

We emphasize continuous **learning** as part of faith formation. Adult study and reflection happen throughout the year through Bible study, women's gatherings, men's club, and discussion groups. Orientation is provided for those who wish to become members, and for those becoming elders and deacons.

Some practical examples of time and expenses devoted to **worship and learning**:

- ◆ Ministry leadership in worship/preaching/music
- ◆ Instruments, choirs
- ◆ Funerals, baptisms, record keeping of such
- ◆ Banners and decorations
- ◆ Liturgists
- ◆ Moments for Ministry
- ◆ Communion supplies and preparation
- ◆ Supplies: bulletins, offering envelopes
- ◆ Ushers, greeters, counters
- ◆ Worship resources, music purchases, projections
- ◆ Technology support
- ◆ Curriculum

Caring \$122,434 - 30% of our \$415,329 budget

Our church offers ongoing care and support to all members and friends of our congregation, and to others in need.

Deacons and others respond to individuals in times of crisis, such as illness and bereavement. We keep in touch with members who are housebound and can no longer come to the church campus. We want this church to be a caring community where each person is able to feel the love of God being shared with one another.

Some practical examples of time and expenses devoted to **caring**:

- ◆ Staff time, both office staff and pastor
- ◆ Visits to hospitals and care homes
- ◆ Counseling
- ◆ Newsletter distribution monthly
- ◆ Constant Contact and other email information
- ◆ Fellowship Hour and other gatherings
- ◆ Prayer Chain
- ◆ Presbyterian Women

The Discipleship and Congregational Life Teams and others welcome visitors and strive to acquaint the community with our church.

Reaching Out \$92,319 - 22% of our \$415,329 budget

Our church reaches out, well beyond church walls, to provide time and money for God's work in the world.

The Witness and Ministry Team and donors help in our city, state, country, and in countries around the world by supporting local mission and the outreach work of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. We are called to seek justice and equality. We support special projects as needs are identified.

Some practical examples of time and expenses devoted to **reaching out**:

- ◆ One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peacemaking Offering, Christmas Joy
- ◆ Care for the Earth Initiatives
- ◆ Local projects such as Food Bank
- ◆ Major initiatives such as tiny houses for homeless
- ◆ Grace Cooperative Preschool

*A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others
will be refreshed.”*

Proverbs 11:25



Annual Pledge Drive

Annual pledges enable the Business Team to predict the majority of our income as we prepare the church budget. The proposed budget for 2023 (also available in line item format) is similar to the past two years. Expenses have been pared and various grants and endowment allocations have helped keep the church stable, but we face another challenging year. Therefore, **YOUR DEPENDABLE ANNUAL PLEDGE IS ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED.**

You will hear personal experiences about inspiring, caring and reaching out from members of the congregation in Moments for Ministry during Sunday worship on November 13, and 20. On November 27, we will collect pledges, add them to pledges already received by mail or online, and thank you with a bit of ceremony during the worship service.

Please pledge in the spirit of Generous Living!

Explore the Grace Church website (<https://www.gracewc.org>) “Ways to Give” page and you will find information about different ways to pay your pledge, make donations for special offerings and more. The page includes an online pledge form that is simple to fill out and submit. Scan the QR code to the right with your smart phone camera and be taken to the online pledge page. You may use this as an alternative to the mail in card.



If you need help with anything on the “Ways to Give” page, contact Linda Neyer, Treasurer, at gracepresbytreasurer@gmail.com or 925-433-5456; or Faye Hutchings, Financial Secretary, at afhutchings@sbcglobal.net or 925-588-3527.

A pledge card and envelope are attached here and you may still submit your pledge by mail, drop it in the collection plate, or bring it to the office. *Thank you on behalf of Grace Presbyterian Church.*