



The Spire

A Newsletter of Christ Church Ithan

Parish Mission Statement

Christ Church Ithan strives to be an active, inclusive, family that embraces an ever present, loving relationship with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It promotes leadership in the church and broader community through nurturing and developing each member's unique gifts from childhood throughout life.

Stewardship 2007- 2008
One Community – One Calling

A Newsletter of
Christ Church Ithan
Villanova, PA

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Stewardship

We're Not Going Anywhere!

In the early church, before the buildings we call churches were built, people met in each other's houses. There were two reasons for that. One was that they were new, small, and not very well organized. The second reason was that Christianity was illegal. Everyone knew each other, newcomers were carefully introduced and because of spies, catechumens, (those who weren't baptized and instructed in the faith were dismissed after the first part, the service of the Word.)

After Emperor Constantine made Christianity legal in 312 A.D. and it was politically advantageous to be a Christian, we started to build buildings for the greater glory of God. Spires rose to touch the heavens. Each one became bigger and more elaborate than the other. The cathedral became the center of the town with all roads leading to it. The cathedral became the See of the bishop and the princes of the church; while dotting the landscape were the little parish churches mirroring, I suppose, the closeness of those first "family" faithful home churches.

I keep thinking of the line from the TV program "Cheers," "where everybody knows your name."

As I observe the "mega churches," I keep thinking how hard it must be to maintain that fellowship of the early church. I also know how hard it is to maintain what's known as the "pastoral model," or the smaller church where "everybody knows your name."

As I am home mending from this rather serious operation looking to an even healthier future, our living room looks like the showroom of a fine florist. The cards deck the top of our home entertainment center virtually falling off as a breeze blows by. This calls to my mind the spirit of the early church.

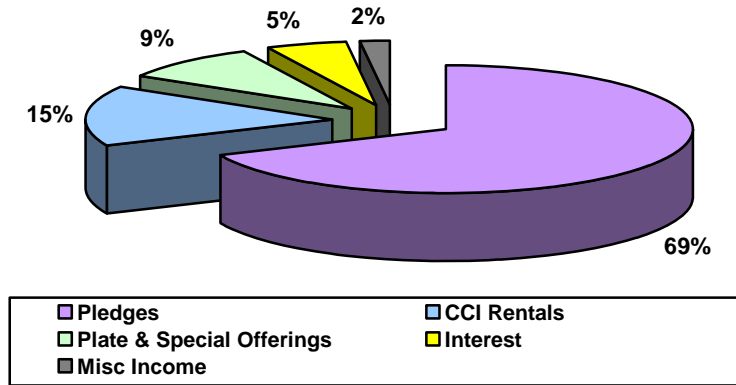
We can't let that go! Bigness might mean success to the world we live in but Jesus speaks of mustard seeds, lilies of the field, and the human heart. Julian sees God in a hazelnut. The Spirit is strong in a loving community such as ours.

Fr. Parker

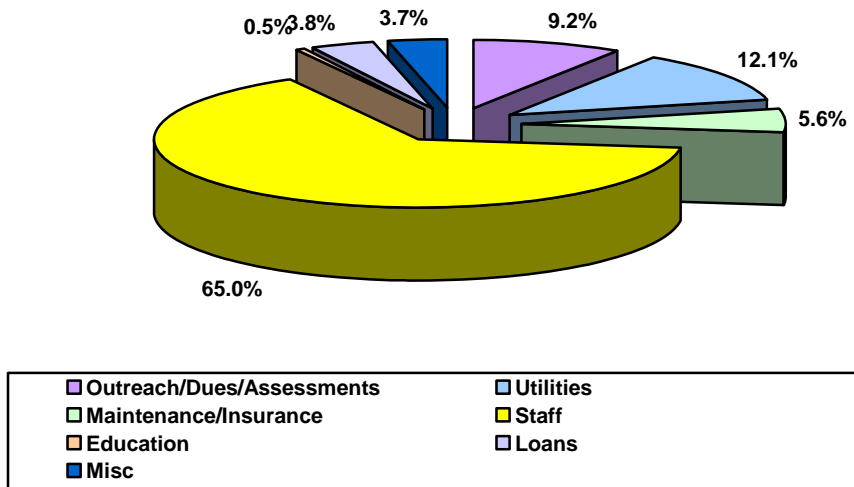


Budget & Finances

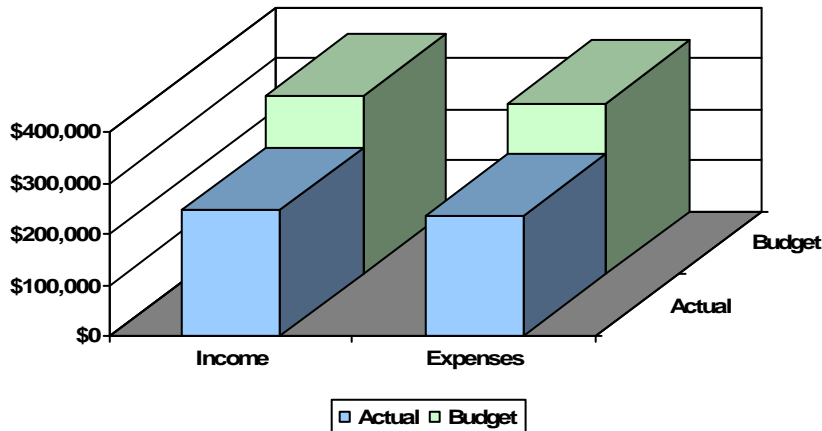
Where Does It Come From?



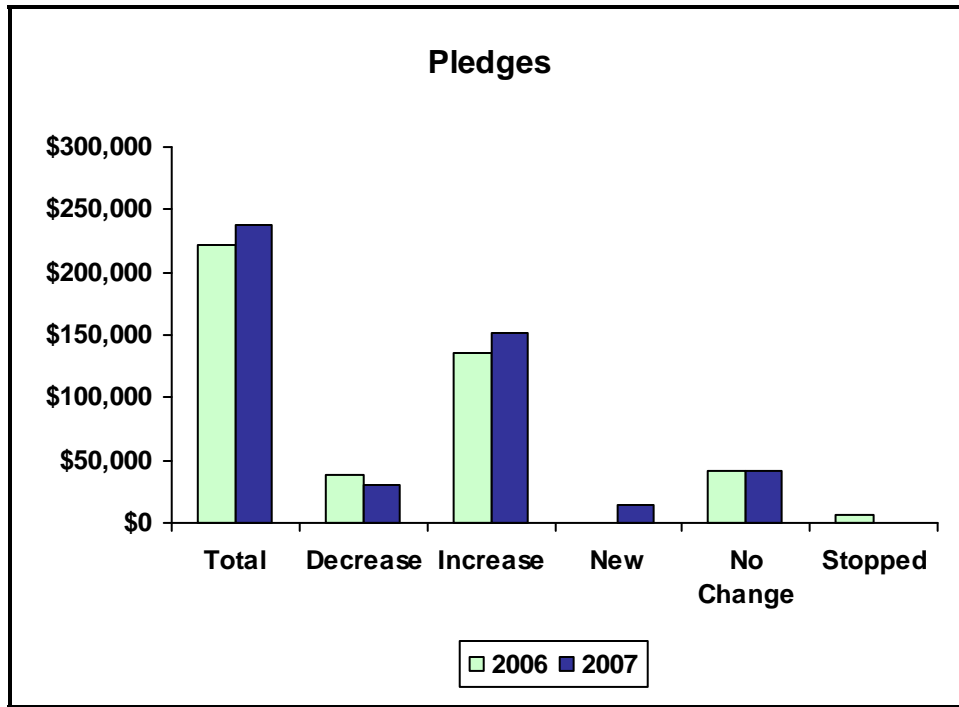
Where Does it Go?



How Are We Doing?



Pledges



Please consider increasing your pledge this year!
 Don't forget to bring your pledge cards on Stewardship Sunday....



Stewardship

History and Traditions Are Important



Some parish churches date back centuries, and have lots of history and tradition attached to them. Others are only a few years old, or a few decades old, and seeking to establish their own unique history and traditions. Ours is somewhere in between. Perhaps your family has been associated with the parish for decades, and you've been a member of the parish since your baptism. Or perhaps you're a relative newcomer, attracted by the promise of a life with Christ and the prospect of rewarding relationships with other Christians.

In any case, our parish church has benefited us in countless ways from the thoughtful generosity of those who have gone before us. Our predecessors, in their wisdom, have left their legacy to help continue their vision for the church. Stewardship and special gifts have helped expand the church's mission, strengthen the congregation, and maintain its buildings, thus preserving its history and traditions. Now, we have the opportunity to do OUR part.

Outreach



- ☞ *St. Mary's Chester*
- ☞ *Dolphins of the Delaware Valley*
- ☞ *Deanery Mission in Uganda*
- ☞ *St. Francis Homes*
- ☞ *St. Mary's Aids Respite*
- ☞ *Church Emergency Fund*
- ☞ *Kearseley Nursing*
- ☞ *Episcopal Relief and Development Fund*
- ☞ *Endow-A-Home*
- ☞ *Christ Church Food Bank*
- ☞ *Philadelphia Food Bank*
- ☞ *American Indian Reserve*
- ☞ *Kearney School*
- ☞ *ALS Research*
- ☞ *Calcutta House*
- ☞ *Youth Group with St. David's*
- ☞ *Saint Dismas Mission of Graterford Prison*
- ☞ *Fresh Air Fund*

These organizations receive support from Christ Church Ithan through our annual budget and your very generous giving.

Announcements



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 18th, there will be only one service at **9:30am**.

Stewardship Sunday provides the opportunity for the whole Christ Church Ithan family to come and worship together as one. After the service, a delicious brunch will be served in the Parish Hall.

Don't forget you pledge cards!

One Community – One Calling



OFF TO COLLEGE

The University of Saint Andrews in Scotland greeted its newest “fresher” this fall. Julianna Boily is off to begin her studies in the biosciences at St. Andrews, the oldest university in Scotland, and the third oldest in the English-speaking world, after Oxford and Cambridge. The University is a mere 600 years old! Teaching at the University takes place over two 15-week semesters with the Martinmas Semester starting October first. During her spare time, Julianna will be representing the University as a member of the varsity equestrian team competing across the UK.

St Andrews has long-standing and extensive ties with the United States and Canada and currently around fifteen percent (1,000) of the undergraduate student body is from North America. And lest we forget, St Andrews is the home of golf.

Julianna graduated with Honors in June from The Baldwin School in Bryn Mawr.