

GATES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Mission Statement – 2009

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we continue to learn and actively teach by the teaching of Jesus Christ. We reflect the love of God by evoking positive change for a better life for people in our local, regional, and worldwide communities.

WORSHIP



Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD."

[1 Samuel 15:25]

For many of us, worship is the most important time we spend at Gates Presbyterian Church. We have a commitment to excellence. In worship we work hard to fulfill the needs of so many.

Much of our Pastors', the Music Directors', and Organists' time is spent preparing for what happens on Sunday morning. This translates into hours of study, planning and crafting of services. It means working with liturgists, the Choirs, musicians and sometimes individual singers, organ and piano tuning and service of the bells used for the bell choir.

Planning for worship also means working with the Public Worship committee and various worship teams. There are many individuals who help in the planning and carrying out of our worship services. They also help with the details of sacraments, including communion and Baptisms, and other special services that occur throughout the year.

The Bell Choir, Youth Choir, and Children's Choir participate in worship regularly. For this to happen, we must purchase music and provide for space to practice and pay for the utilities so that the members of these groups can practice in comfort.

If the sanctuary is too warm or too cold, people will be uncomfortable and that means they (you) will be distracted. Utilities must be paid to enable us to maintain the heat, lights, and equipment that run quietly in the background only to be missed when they do not work properly.

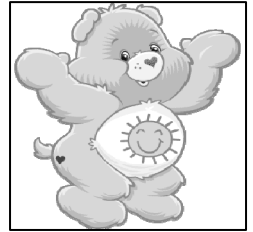
There are also materials that must be bought or replaced regularly. These costs are factored into our request for funds for the coming year.

Total needed for Worship: \$86,236

CARE –INCLUDING PASTORS AND DEACONS

**“God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world
but to save the world through him.”**

[John 3:17]



Each year we seek to demonstrate the love of God for people in a variety of ways. While our Pastors, Deacons, and Staff serve as the point people in these efforts, each of you contributes to our ministries of caring in a variety of different and significant ways.

The Pastor and Associate Pastor spend considerable time visiting members in the hospital, in nursing homes and in the comfort of their own home. Their efforts are supported through the Deacons as they focus on the well being of the congregation. The Pastor and Associate Pastor maintain regular office hours so that we can drop into chat or schedule more significant blocks of time for counseling.

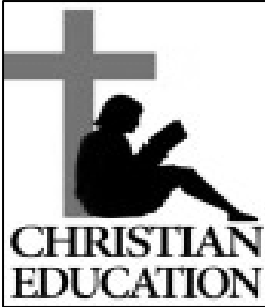
Our Associate Pastor also spends a significant amount of her time visiting with and developing a caring environment for our young people. Through her, young people learn that their faith is not just a once a week affair, but a way of life.

The Secretaries also spend a portion of their time answering phones, answering questions and simply serving as the first person many people see when they walk into our offices. They also are responsible for passing on concerns to the appropriate people so that a timely response can be made to needs that are made known.

Members and friends are kept up to date through our newsletter known as the Harbinger and other special mailings. Equipment to create these communications is part of what makes this possible. To have the means we have to maintain them and these costs are a part of our ministry of care.

Total needed for our ministry of care: \$73,067

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - YOUTH TO ADULT



"Jesus answered him, Simon, I have something to tell you. Tell me, teacher, he said."

[Luke 7:40]

We believe that the need for education never stops. Our educational efforts are designed to meet the spiritual needs of our people from the time they begin to be a part of our fellowship until they leave for a new community or until they reach their eternal resting place.

This means we offer a variety of opportunities for people to explore their faith, to learn new skills and to grow in their ability to serve our Lord.

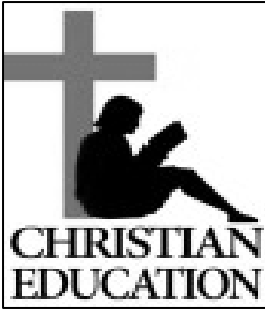
Currently we have our Ministry with Young Children, our Youth Ministry and our Adult Education programs. GPC offers Church School classes for children and youth from preschool age to high school seniors. In addition, each summer GPC hosts Vacation Bible School encouraging children from within GPC and the community at large to participate in this wonderful learning experience. Our Junior Choir Director includes an educational element in every choir practice leading up to the Junior Choir's performances during worship.

Some of the costs that are evident in this area are found in the curriculum and support materials that are purchased from a number of different sources. In addition, many of our leaders create some or all of their own materials. These must be duplicated and collated. This task falls to our secretarial staff.

Many education programs meet in the church building. Utilities and maintenance costs are an unseen part of our educational efforts.

The youth program is active 12 months of the year and there are many activities available for the youth of GPC to participate in not only in and around Rochester but well beyond our local area.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - YOUTH TO ADULT - CONTINUED



Leaders need to be trained and supported. This is a part of the responsibilities of our Pastors. They meet regularly with members of the Christian Education Committee, teachers, and other leaders in our church.

The Adult Education programs at GPC offer many diverse opportunities for expanding one's knowledge and understanding of what being a Christian is all about. From adult bible studies to second hour gatherings to men's and women's group gatherings all focus their attention on learning more about what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Among other fellowship opportunities are the weekly after-worship coffee, tea, and punch where we focus on catching up with one another and making serious efforts to get to know the names that accompany the faces of those we don't know. In addition, there are music programs, sports programs, youth groups, fund raising events, women's circles, lunch bunch, work projects and a variety of other activities.

GPC attempts to touch the spiritual needs of many by making available Upper Room Ministries devotional booklets as well as Lenten devotionals and Advent devotionals.

Even our Mission outreach provides a wonderful opportunity for fellowship not only within GPC but also to the community at large. Moreover, we have Mid-week and Sunday morning bible study groups that often engage in lively and informative discussions.

Total needed for our ministry of Christian Education: \$123,797

LOCAL, GLOBAL, AND DENOMINATIONAL MISSION MINISTRIES



"For a long time now- to this very day-you have not deserted your brothers but have carried out the mission the LORD your God gave you."

[Joshua 22:3]

Jesus used the word disciple in much the same way we use the word apprentice. To be a disciple of Christ is to be sent into the world to do what Jesus did, perhaps to improve upon what he started and to make a difference. Here at Gates Presbyterian Church we attempt to do just that.

We welcome a variety of community organizations into our church so they can carry on their programs. While they are carrying out their part of the relationship, our offerings provide the background support that makes it possible for them to have a place to meet and to address a variety of needs. GPC has been the home for Rochester Area Pre-School for many years and we have supported RAP as an outreach to the community. GPC provides the utilities and the clean up services for many of the groups who meet here.

In addition, we are involved in hands-on ministries of care and compassion to our local community. Some of the local missions GPC supports include St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, SWEM, and Cameron Community Ministries. The people of GPC continue to provide monetary donations to worthy organizations locally, nationally, and outside the U.S. We provide many goods and services to many mission needs that are not represented as a part of our overall budget.

Mission beyond the local community has long been an important part of the Mission and Ministry at GPC. We have ties to the Basic School in Jamaica, United Church of Santoy, Randal Shea and his mission, the Guatemala partners, there is an Alternative Advent Market that helps raise funds for many worthy organizations, and financial support of Amnesty International just to name a few.

Our church staff provides regular leadership and assistance to the community efforts to meet the real needs of our neighbors known and unknown.

Total needed for our ministries of mission: \$66,147

MISSION TO THE LARGER CHURCH



"I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd."

[John 10:16]

Gates Presbyterian is a part of the **Presbytery of the Genesee Valley**. This means that we are in a mission partnership with the 70 churches that make up the Presbytery of the Genesee Valley. Several members of our congregation are participants in some of the ministry teams that work to help make our presbytery's churches more effective in their efforts.

The presbytery provides officer training for our elders and deacons each year, to compliment the training that we give. It offers Special Events that help us deal with some of the pressing ministry needs that we have identified. There is a Resource Center at the Presbytery Office that provides samples and resources so that we, and other member churches, do not have to buy one-time usage materials.

The Presbytery has sponsored eight teams since March 2006 that have gone to New Orleans to work on the RHINO rebuilding project and there are at least two trips planned for 2010. GPC has had people go and be a part of several of those mission trips.

In this time between pastors, the Presbytery is there to help us through its committee on Ministry by providing help with our self-study and assistance recruiting an interim Pastor. We also received a listing of supply ministers who have helped us with our worship during our time of transition.

Presbytery also works to provide for the needs of the larger area by carrying on ministries that are too large for one church, or even a small group of churches. The funds that we give cover these ministries and the administrative costs associated with the work that is done there.

Total needed for Presbytery Missions: \$9,887

SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNIFIED MISSIONS



We are a part of the Synod of the Northeast that includes portions of the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. There are 22 Presbyteries and 1,167 congregations within these boundaries.

The Synod provides a variety of resources that either directly or indirectly enhances our ministry here at Gates Presbyterian Church. We have benefitted from past Conferences on Church Transformation, Stewardship and Mission, and other important topics.

The Synod is also a source of information relating to a number of issues that are important to us such as their sponsorship of the Inside Washington seminars every year.

The Presbyterian Church, USA is made up of some two million other committed people who stretch from coast to coast. The 11,000+ congregations that bear the name are gathered into a body known as the General Assembly. Beginning in 2004 our General Assembly meets every other year.

Through our contributions to the General Assembly, we receive a variety of services that we, in turn use to carry on our ministry. It is through the auspices of the G.A. that we order our Church School materials, as well as bible studies materials. G.A. also publishes Officer Training materials and the Book of Order and Book of Confessions.

General Assembly provides a pastoral referral service that enabled us to locate our last pastor and two previous interim pastors. It is through this service that we have made known our need for a new pastor by circulating our Church Information Form.

SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY-UNIFIED MISSIONS - CONTINUED



We have a long-standing commitment to International Missions and a portion of our mission dollars go to General Assembly with an ear-mark for ministries in Central America and China. Our funds, combined with churches like ours, make it possible for Missionaries to continue to share the gospel with folks in other lands who have not heard it. Other portions of our mission dollars are un-designated. These go to such things as New Church Development, Racial/Ethnic ministries, Youth programming, Education, and retirement care for missionaries and pastors.

Each year G.A. sponsors numerous conferences and training events. We have participated in several of them, with members returning with new insights, ideas, and enthusiasm that have been translated into new vigor for our ministries.

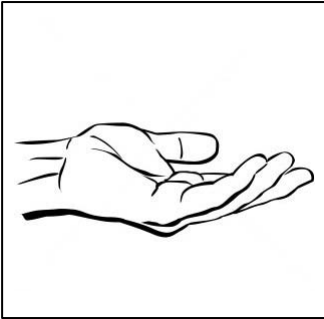
There are support materials made available free of charge for the One Great Hour of Sharing, Peacemaking, and Pentecost offerings.

92% of all contributions received by the Synod stay within the area it has been designated for, only 8% goes to administrative costs.

For 2009 the per capita amount for each member of GPC was \$25.71 and that totals over \$16,000. The \$16,000 is paid to the Presbytery by GPC but only about 35% of this amount was received from the members of GPC. Many examples of the support provided by the Presbytery and Synod have been shown. All of these are examples of your per capita allocation going to support the mission and ministry of the Presbytery and the Synod. Your payment of the per capita allocation is vital for the Presbytery and the Synod to be able to continue to provide assistance and support.

Total needed for our Unified Missions: \$6,207

IN-KIND GIVING



"A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great."

[Proverbs 18:16]

In-kind donations are those donations that are done in goods and services in addition to, or in place of money. Many times a donator gives of his or her time, talent or other non-monetary gifts.

GPC has a long history of in-kind giving that helps support many worthy people and organizations, be it nearby or far away. Because these donations do not show up in our budget the value and impact of this type of giving is often overlooked.

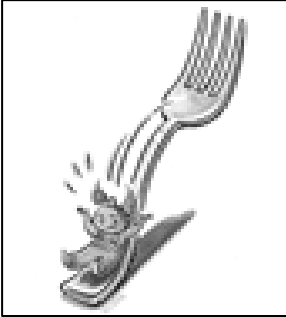
We collect food donations for SWEM during the summer, cook and serve a meal at St Joseph's House of Hospitality four times during the year, donate and dress teddy bears for an inner-city reading program. In 2009 we have collected over 1,300 pounds of food for SWEM during the season of Lent and in the past we have packaged and delivered holiday meal baskets to SWEM. Undie Sundays in August go to Cameron Community Ministries. We have a Mitten Tree during Advent to supply needy children with hats, scarves, and gloves, donated clothes for Cameron Kids to wear at their Christmas party. The Alternate Advent Market helps support organizations in Jamaica and Guatemala along with other lands.

Within Gates Presbyterian Church there are groups that raise funds to further their mission and ministry. For the most part they are on their own to seek out the support they need. Our Jr. High and Sr. High youth groups raise funds for their mission outreach in and around Rochester, in and out of New York State and far away destinations such as Jamaica.

The Guatemala partners seek the support of the GPC family as they further their mission by making trips to Guatemala and surrounding areas every few years.

Total value of In-Kind Giving: \$38,000

FUND RAISING



“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.

[2 Corinthians 9:6]

Fund raising encompasses many people and many areas of our church. Not only do our fund raising efforts help support the financial needs for our church but also provides many opportunities for fellowship, a hallmark of Christian ministry. In a world where we meet people every day but never really have a chance to get to know them, these events provide such opportunities. Here at GPC, we provide many occasions for people to gather for fundraising events that include fun, friendship, and refreshment.

Raising funds is a never ending need in the life of our church family. It has been recognized for many years that, as Presbyterians, we have demonstrated that we like to eat. And so, there are regularly scheduled dinners in the spring (roast beef) and fall (ham).

Summertime is a time for rest and relaxation but not for the dedicated folks that have helped make our annual yard sale the largest fund raiser we have. It takes a small village of volunteers to see to it that our yard sale is one of the best in the area and shoppers that return year after year attest that it is.

The GPC Lunch Bunch is a group that works very hard to make its contribution to GPC. They make many hand crafted items to sell at various functions and other items are put together and donated to needy organizations such as hospice and Alternative for Battered Women.

In November 2009 the Thirty-Second annual Church Mouse Bazaar will be held. This has been a wonderful way for people from all around the area to show their wares and talents and provide a means for many people to purchase hand crafted items.

Total value of Fund Raising: \$13,150

GATES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FINAL THOUGHTS

**The total needed to carry on all these ministries for 2010 is
\$365,341**

**This represents a total increase of 3% over 2009
and the need to increase pledges by 6.2% over 2009**

**We encourage you to give as a sign of your
Gratitude for what God has done for you and
as a sign of your commitment to be a
contributing member to this family of faith.**

**Don't give until it hurts.
Give until it feels *good!***