

**Brookside
Congregational
Church**



*Brookside Congregational Church
United Church of Christ*

Narrative Budget 2012

We Love to Tell the Story



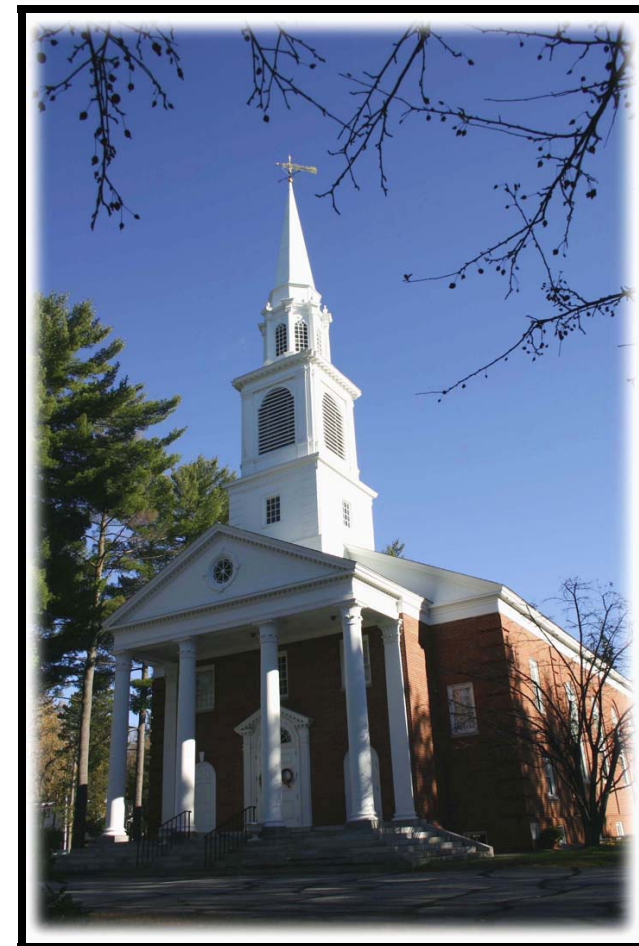
Photo taken in April 2011 by Studio One

*Brookside Congregational Church
United Church of Christ*

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To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love...

If you are reading this booklet right now, then you are connected to Brookside Church. You may be a long time member or newer to the community. You may have children in the church school workshops or serve on a board or walked with Brookside in the New Horizons Walk Against Hunger. Maybe you attend worship every week or come as you can. You could sing in the choir, be a reader of Scripture, or just checking us out, but you are connected.

You're connected by a story that is as ancient as creation and as new as each time it is told. It is a love story, really; dramatic at times and ordinary at others, but it is the story that connects us and gives us purpose, calling us to be the church in mission. It is the story of Jesus and his love, and you and I have important parts in telling that story of Jesus' love as we give through Brookside Church.

Will you join me in telling the story to those who are hungering and thirsting to know it like the rest? Like the young man who was so proud to have found a job in a small restaurant on Elm Street. It meant he could now leave the homeless shelter and afford a room in a boarding house. After a month of work, the restaurant closed suddenly and he was again without a job. Brookside helped him keep his room. When he had nowhere to go, he turned to Brookside. Have you seen the pride with which the women in the Rubia Sewing Program display their handiwork? This new skill means income for their families.

Will you join me in telling the story to those who know it best? It is a delight to watch our young children bonding in their workshops and the high school youth serving in mission. Where else would they hear that story of Jesus' love for them that is to be shared with others? What other community is there that crosses generations in worship and fellowship and serving? Where elders are secret pals and mentors to youth and youth come to the funerals of elders who are not their grandparents? And, side by side, the generations pack holiday food baskets with the food they have gathered.

Yes, you are connected and have an important part in telling that story of Jesus and his love.

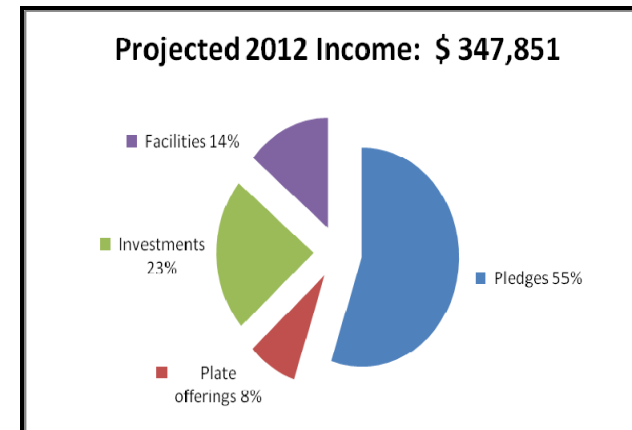
Grace and peace,
Pastor Dawn



As we look forward to telling our story in 2012, we have much to be thankful for and room to grow and serve. Our narrative budget is the story of how our church family worships our God, cares for those in our community and within our own family and always remembers that forming faithful Christians is at the center of our church life. But none of this is possible without the financial support of each of us.

You have a part in telling the story of Jesus and his love through Brookside Church. In the words of St. Paul: "You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through [Brookside]; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the [church family] but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." (12 Cor. 2:9:11 adapted)

Thanks for your gift!





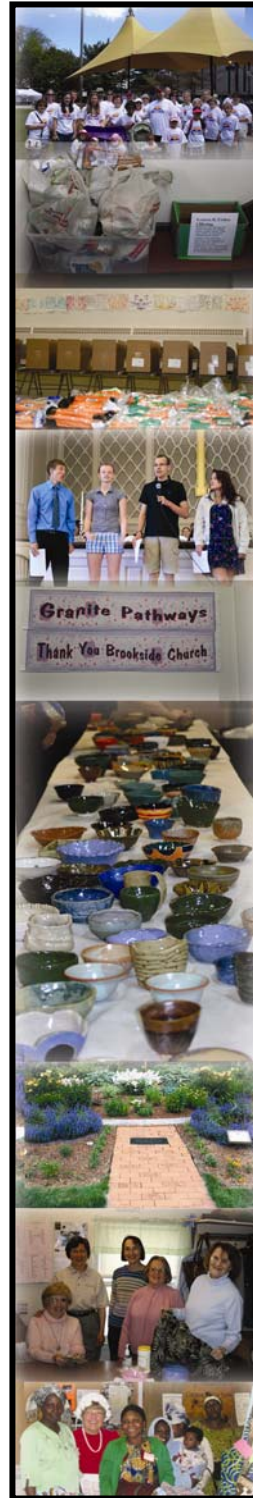
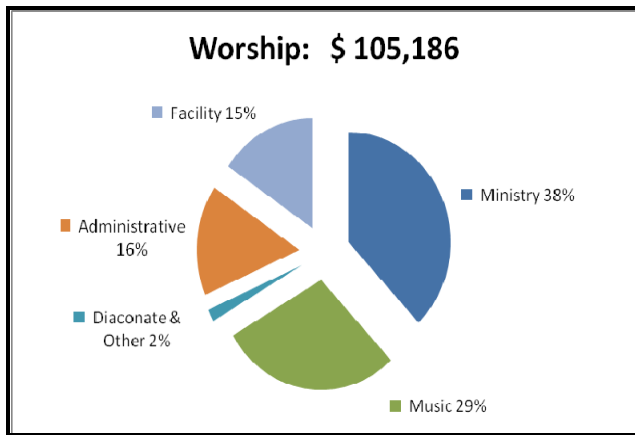
Worship

“... for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”
(Isaiah 56:7)

Worship is when Christ’s Story is told and is the foundation of our relationship with God and with each other. With prayer, song, and sacraments, we give thanks for the blessings we receive. Your giving provides what is needed for sacred space to embrace sacred time ... bread and wine, linens and candles, heat and light ... sermons that inspire and remind ... technology that keeps us connected ... bulletins that keep us all on the same page ... music that transports and moves us ... worship thoughtfully prepared and prayerfully led through a shared liturgy of the Word and Communion – a place, a sanctuary that truly welcomes all people.

Choir
Music Director
Sermon Preparation
Confirmation
Baptism
Communion

Readers
Acolytes
Instrument Maintenance & Repair
Greeters/Ushers
Website



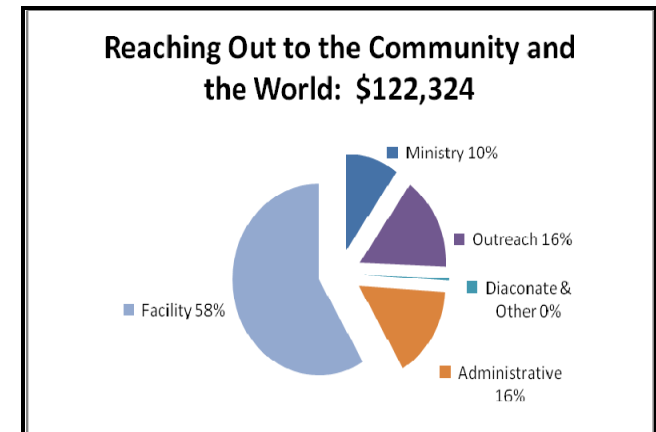
Reaching Out to the Community and the World

“for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink ...” (Matthew 25:35)

In living the story of Christ's love, we reach out to the poor and hungry in the city of Manchester through donations of food, service, time and money. We reach out to Sakubva Church in Zimbabwe through our partnership, and we contribute to UCC offerings and disaster relief. Through our welcome of many groups that share our facilities, we contribute to their mission as they do to ours, including Pastoral Counseling Services, Granite Pathways, St John of Suceava – Romanian Orthodox Church and the community garden. At Brookside there is room for each of us to serve – to find that place where our faith and the needs of the world intersect.

Thrift Shop
Compassionate Friends
OCWM Contributions
New Horizons
Alcoholics Anonymous
Rubia Sewing Project
Gay Men’s Chorus

Holiday Baskets
Families in Transition
Child Sponsorship
The Food Bank – Loaves and Fishes
Empty Bowls Project
Youth Group Mission Trips
Haitian Congregational Bible Church





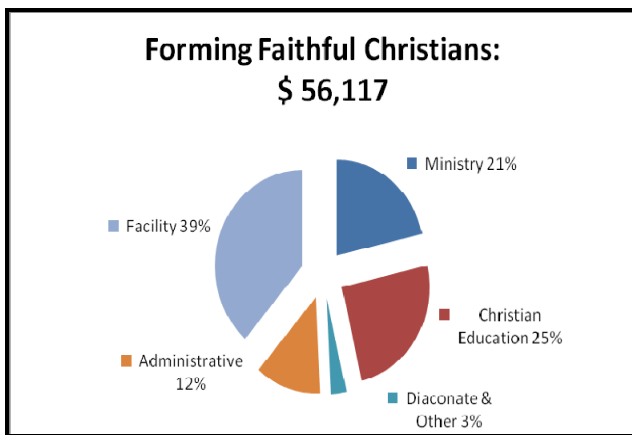
Forming Faithful Christians

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them...” Mt. 5:1-2

There are Gospel stories about growing hearts, minds, and spirits in Christ. We are called to teach the legacy of wisdom and compassion, to tell the story and be open to hearing it anew. Whether through the youthful exuberance of our burgeoning church school and youth group programs, the thoughtful examination of our book discussion and Bible study groups or the various Lent and Advent educational programs, we realize that hearing the word of God requires deliberate, conscious, and ongoing thought and discernment. Brookside is a place where each of us has room to grow.

- Adult Study Groups
- Church School
- Youth Groups
- Seminary Support
- Children’s Sunday

- Seminarian Training
- Epiphany Play
- Camp Sponsorships
- Lent/Advent Educational Programs
- Confirmation



Caring for Our Church Family

“If one member suffers, all suffer together, if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:26-27)

Caring for one another during life’s journey ... in times of joy and celebration as well as crisis and hardship through pastoral presence, visitation and counseling, compassionate assistance, hope and consolation, a sympathetic ear, a gentle hug, a restoring meal. Pastoral care demonstrates a dedication to human dignity, appreciation for individual differences, a balance of acceptance and accountability, a dedication to justice and mercy, and an incarnation of love and hope. The responsibility to care for our church family belongs to all of us – not just the pastor. There is room at Brookside for all to grow and serve.

A faithful community...a church family. Fellowship and hospitality. Tending the church and tending each other. Celebrating Christ in each of our lives, and our lives together in Christ. Clean up days, fellowship dinners, talent shows and the warmth of our weekly Coffee Hour. Each and all of these contribute to the sense of Home we share at Brookside – a place where there is room for you.

- Called to Care Ministry
- All Church Clean Up
- Women’s Union
- Christmas Fair

- Coffee Hours
- Hearts and Hands
- Secret Pals
- Iced Tea with the Pastor

- Summer Story Hour
- Annual Meeting
- Fellowship Dinners
- Ones in Friendship

