

Shared Ministry

A narrative budget for
Pinegrove United Church
2015



"Reaching out to others with God's love"





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OUR STORY – IN A NARRATIVE BUDGET

A "Narrative Budget" shows in broad strokes a quick overview how we as Pinegrove UC are "being church".

The story of who we are as a church should be a reflection of what we read in Scripture, what we see in the life of Jesus, in this faith community and in the wider world. This narrative budget combines all that in a "snapshot" portrait of Pinegrove UC.

This portrait shows the connection between the abstract numbers on the balance sheet - and the actual life and work of Pinegrove. It doesn't replace the balance sheet, it simply provides an easy-to-understand overview.

Based on what we read in the Scriptures and see in Christ's life, we believe that any congregation's key responsibilities are these Christian Practices:

- **Worship**
- **Pastoral Caring**
- **Reaching Out**
- **Christian Nurture and Education**
- **Support for the Wider Church**

**Total expenditures for Pinegrove United Church
in 2015: \$71,902**

The purpose of this Narrative Budget is to illustrate how much (or how little) of our budget goes to each key Christian Practice, as we work to fulfill our mission and live out God's transforming love in different faith-filled ways.

The next five pages provide an easy-to-understand overview of how that money was used for Worship, Pastoral Care, Outreach, Christian Nurture & education, and Support for the Wider church.

WORSHIP

"Worship the LORD with gladness! (...) Enter these gates with thanksgiving; go into these courts with praise."
(Psalm 100)



\$35,951 = 50% of our total spending

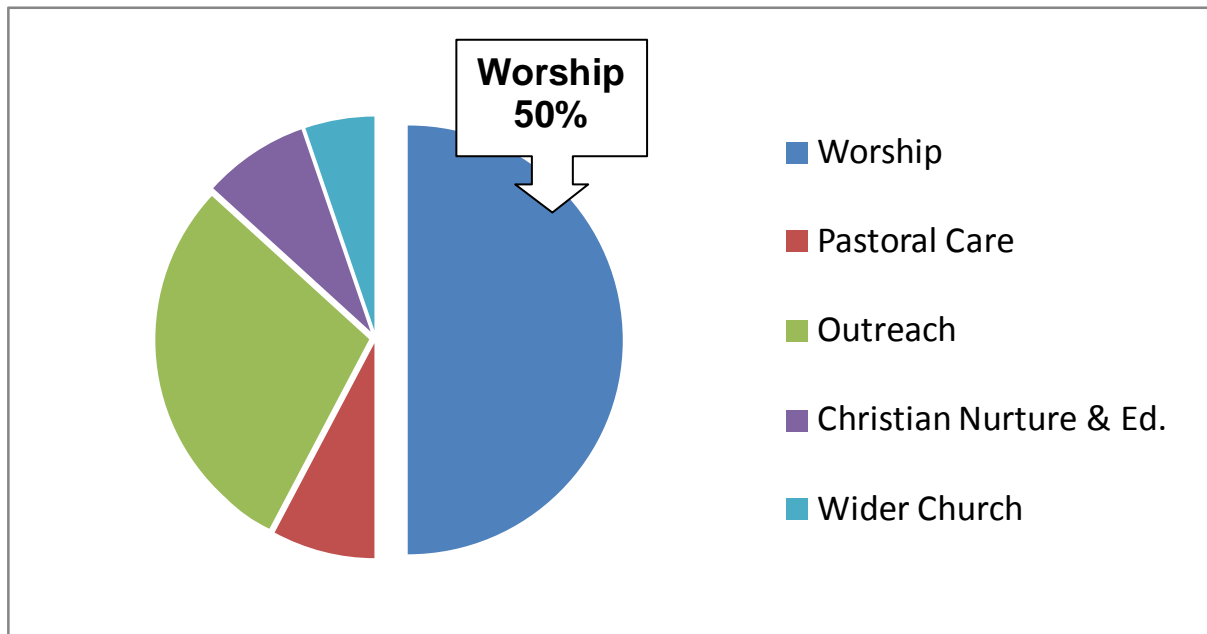
At Pinegrove we meet each Sunday morning for worship, with special services at other times as needed (for instance Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve, Good Friday, funerals, etc.).

Our minister Hubert Den Draak has been leading us in meaningful service, supported by the musical talents of our pianist and choir director Jill Schutte, and a dedicated choir. A worship committee helps plan the services.

We also have a strong tradition of involving lay members in our worship to help ushering and make guests feel welcomed, to read scriptures, decorate the sanctuary, help with children's time, and so on.

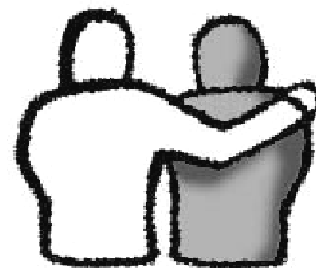
Pinegrove was the first congregation to partner with Trinity UC's experiment with multi-site technology ("Partners in e-Worship"). This frees up some time for our minister to develop additional initiatives; it also helps create a sense of wider community with our online worship partners.

➡ *"Liturgy" literally means "work of the people". So, worship is part of the public work of God's people. How could this be more "public" and less "private"?*



PASTORAL CARING

"(A)ll the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."
(1 Corinthians 12, 25-27)



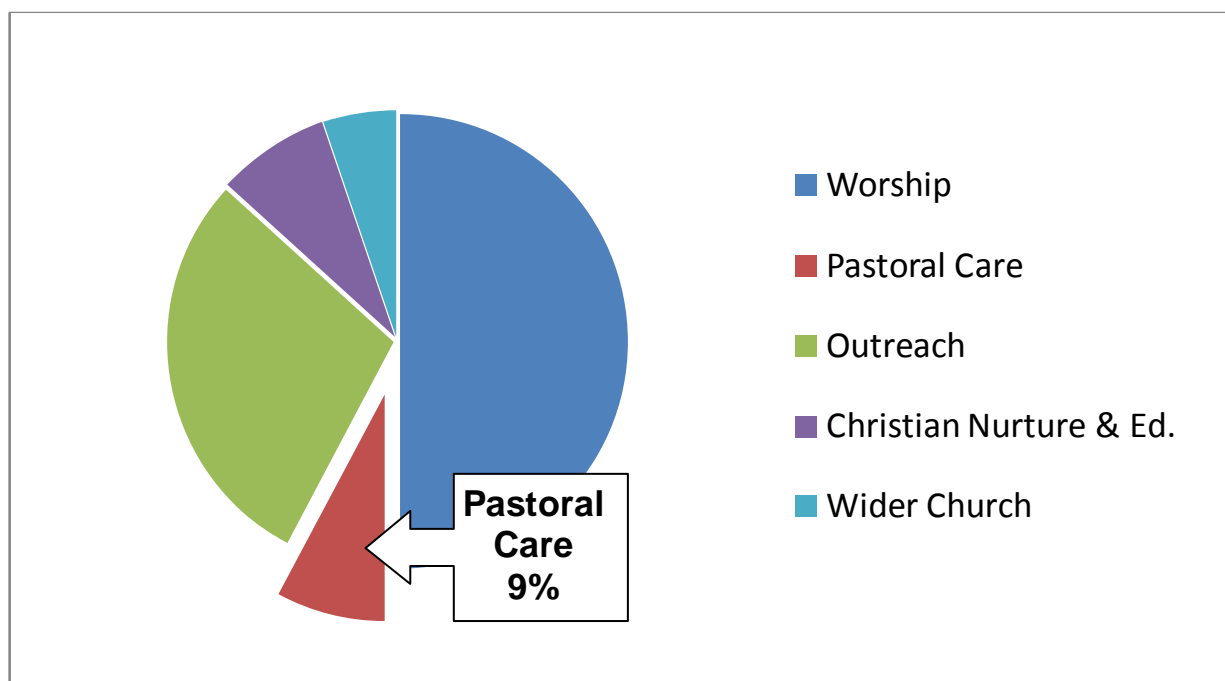
\$6,470 = 9% of our total spending

The *spiritual health* of a faith community is reflected in the way it practices (pastoral) caring. How do we rejoice/celebrate together in good times, how do we lament or support each other in hard times?

One way we like to do that at Pinegrove is through our social gatherings (usually with food involved...!). Of course prayer is essential, too, as are our pastor's visits to hospitals, local nursing homes and personal visits to members of our congregation, and occasionally congregations without a minister of their own.

We strive to make our church a caring family of faith, filled with not only the love of God but also the love of one another.

☞ *We should always ask ourselves, "How could we grow stronger as a faith family? Who is left out - and why?"*



REACHING OUT

"I tell you the truth, when you did it (reached out) to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!"
(Matthew 25:40)

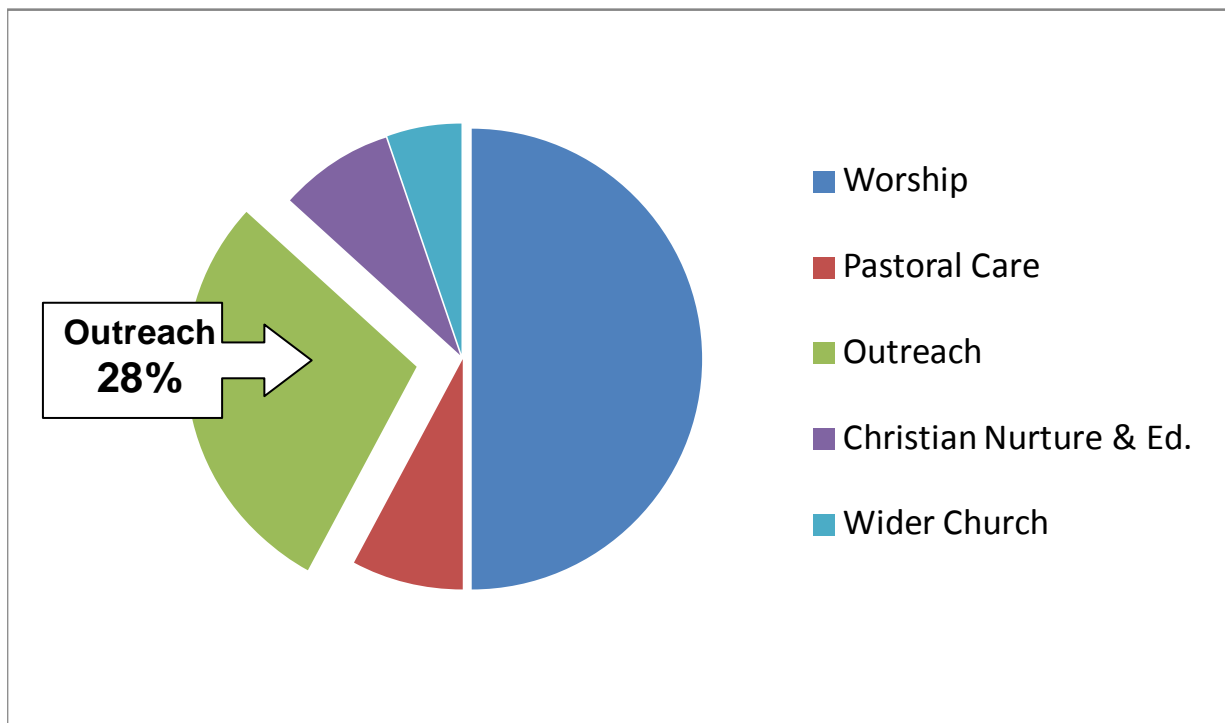


\$20,133 = 28% of our total spending

Outreach is "*doing* faith". We provide time and money for God's work beyond our church walls. Pinegrove reaches out locally, nationally and worldwide; outreach makes a real difference to those in need, and makes God's realm of shalom a bit more of a reality.

A few examples of Pinegrove "doing" faith are our financial pledge to the Mission and service Fund, donating goods and volunteer time to Shelter House and regional Food Banks, offering community events, offering worship at nursing homes, the Mitten Tree - and much more.

➡ *Last year, the congregation decided to make a "leap of faith" in taking our outreach work to the next level, starting in the spring of 2016. You can read a bit more about it on page 7.*



CHRISTIAN NURTURE and EDUCATION



"Go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you." So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him."
(Luke 8:39)

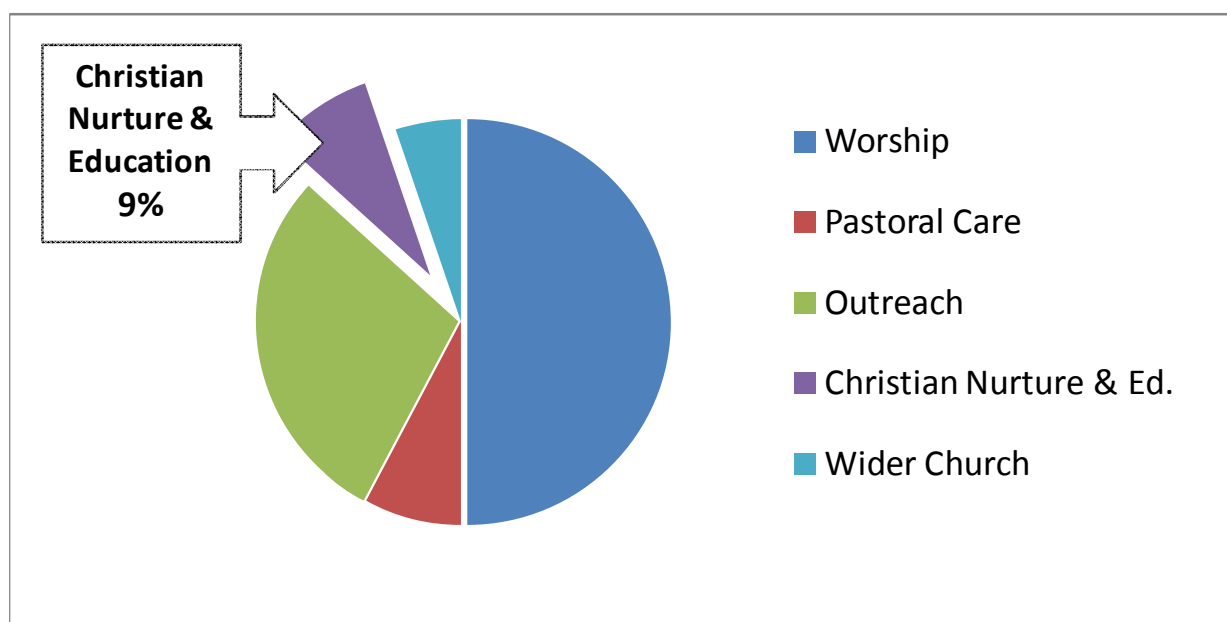
\$6,471 = 9% of our total spending

We grow closer to God by growing our knowledge together. We provide a form of intergenerational education (including children and seekers) through our monthly God Spot services for all ages. For the smallest children there are snacks and crafts as well as a nursery.

Couples who wish to be married or have their children baptized can discuss their faith questions and be instructed in what the Church offers and asks.

In these times when the vast majority of the population is no longer familiar with the church, it is now our responsibility to also educate and communicate with the wider community using the many tools that are now in place (newsletter, website, Facebook page, monthly articles in Oliver-Paipoonge Newsletter, articles in Chronicle Journal's "Spiritual Gatherings", posters, flyers, new church sign).

➡ *What could be added to help teach and proclaim Christ's message?*



SUPPORT TO THE WIDER CHURCH



"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other."

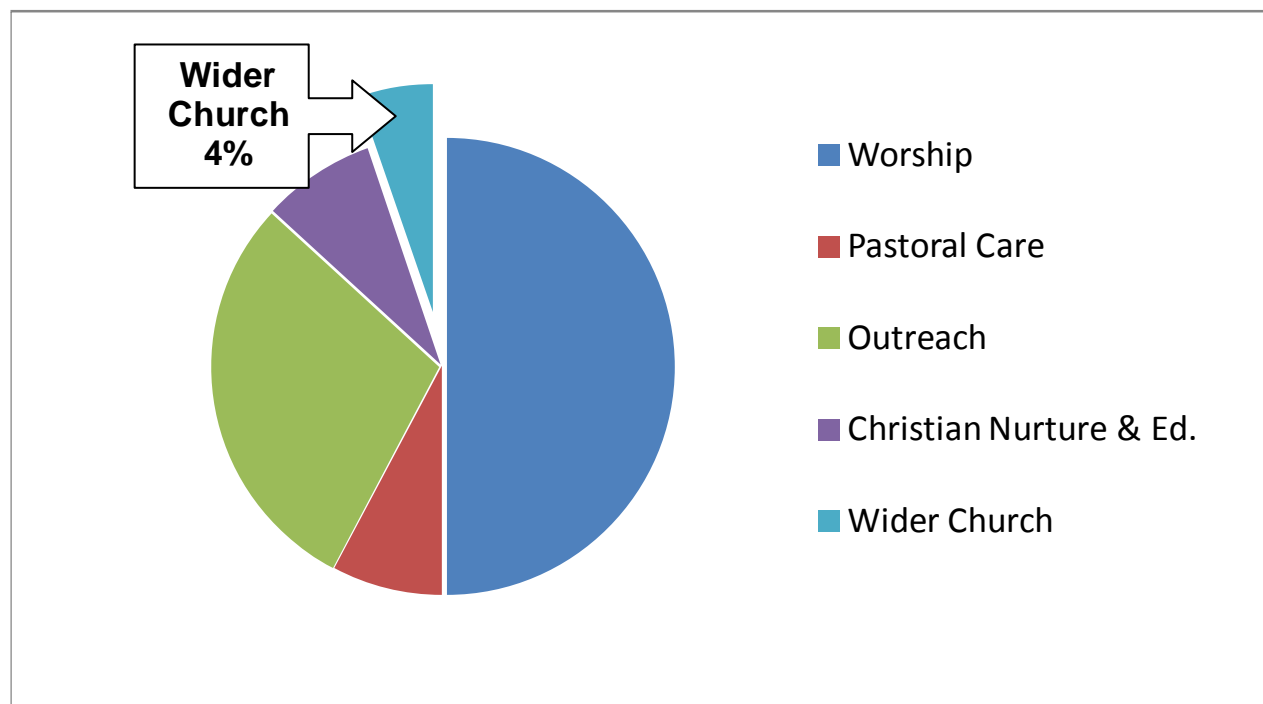
(Romans 12:4,5)

\$2,876 = 4% of our total spending

4% of our operating budget is related to the practice of Support to the Wider Church. Pinegrove is not an island, but part of a much larger body: the United Church of Canada, which in turn is part of the worldwide community of churches, "the Body of Christ".

We contribute to Presbytery, participate in the World Day of Prayer with our neighbouring rural churches, have joint initiatives with our neighbours of Central Kakabeka UC and St. Mark's Anglican Church. Also, we were/are actively involved with the folks at Kakabeka Central UC as they travelled their difficult journey toward closing.

➡ *What more could we do to strengthen our bonds with the "body of Christ"?*



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE CAN BE



*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the
wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:19)*

At last year's Annual Meeting the congregation unanimously voted in favour of the board's proposal to increase our community outreach. We realized that sticking to the "same old, same old" way of doing things may not be the best way to face the tremendous changes and challenges all around us. And so we chose to trust that God has a plan and a future for us.

Instead of desperately "trying to hold on to what we still got", we decided to become (even) better at what we do best: providing a welcoming community for everyone in our rural neighbourhood. The congregation also indicated that this initiative should not mean extra work and stress for our volunteers who often already feel overextended.

A small Task Group was assembled, who came up with the idea of "Café del Soul": a place where rural folks can connect with others over a meal, music and local arts. A proposal for a Mission Support Grant was submitted, and awarded with a \$11,000 grant. These funds will go toward hiring a Program Coordinator for 1 day/week. This person will schedule food donations, purchases and pickup, do publicity, find and schedule community volunteers, do basic bookkeeping, find additional funding, and so on.

We trust that this will make Pinegrove a community hub where all kinds of people love to come and connect, and not only on Sundays. We also trust that this will re-energize our cherished faith community, giving it a new jolt of energy and a renewed focus on its mission.

We're only just gearing up for it now, but if you'd like to be part of it somehow (or simply like to know more), just ask John Venasky, Gene Kolisnyk, Heather Holland or Pastor Hubert.

➡ *God is doing a new thing at Pinegrove!*

EVER WONDERED WHY?

Ever wondered why a \$100 dollar bill seems like so much when you donate it to the church, but so little when you go shopping?

Ever wondered why an hour seems so long when you're at church, and how short it is when watching a hockey game?

Ever wondered why you can't find things to say when you're praying, but you have no trouble on thinking what to talk about with a friend?

Ever wondered why how everyone wants front-row-tickets to concerts or games, but they do whatever is possible to sit at the last row in the church?

Ever wondered why we need to know about a church event 2-3 *weeks* before the day so we can include it in our agenda, but we have no problem fitting in a concert, a game or eating out at the last moment?

HMM... I WONDER WHY.



"Reaching out to others with God's love."