



St. Anthony on the Desert Episcopal Church

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Our Mission

Vision: To be a Life-Home in Christ for all, especially rebuilding our childrens' and youth ministries.



Mission: St. Anthony is a Life-Home in Christ for all by...

- Deepening our awareness of Christ's presence in ourselves and others
- Creating a sense of belonging through love and caring
- Nurturing friendships and connections
- Celebrating together all life's experiences
- Trusting in the gifts that God has given us

...so that we become a Life-Home without walls in Christ for all.

Search Committee Prayer

Almighty God,

You know the needs of your Church in every place. Look graciously upon us, the people of St. Anthony on the Desert, and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new rector for this parish.

Give us discernment, wisdom and confidence in your timing. Guide the members of our search committee, as they labor to be faithful to seeking your will. We pray for the life of our parish, that we may continue to be strengthened in our mission to be Christ's heart, hands and feet to our neighbors no matter where they are on their journey of faith.

Bless us with mutual trust and respect, courage and foresight as you shepherd our community through its journey. Grace us with continuous direction and inspire us toward genuine self-reflection.

All this we ask as we walk in your ways to the glory of your name.

Amen



A Welcome Letter From Us

Welcome to St. Anthony on the Desert.

This is the story of who we are, who we want to be and who we are seeking to lead us. It is the story of a parish that opens its hearts, hands and feet not only to each other but to the world around us.

We are a community united in Christian worship and service with a focus on mission and spiritual growth for all ages. Partnering with those in need locally, nationally and internationally is a core value that is expressed within and beyond our walls. Along with this is our passion for hospitality; no one stays a stranger for long.

The people of St. Anthony want to expand our mission field to our neighboring community and school. With God's help, our goals are to draw in a diverse congregation working and worshipping together to make His word part of our lives.

This is where you come in. Our new rector would share our vision to unite with our neighbors, deepen our spiritual growth and be open to alternative ways of celebrating our spiritual life. We want you to know we will all be in this together. This is a collaborative venture. We are very excited to see where God will take us.

Our Local Community

St. Anthony on the Desert Episcopal Church is located in Scottsdale, Arizona, in the eastern part of the city, bordering the town of Fountain Hills. Scottsdale is part of the Arizona Sonoran Desert, home to over 250,000 people, and is part of the greater Phoenix metropolitan area, known as the Valley of the Sun.

Originally settled by farmers and later developed by cattle ranchers, Scottsdale was incorporated in 1951, with approximately 2,000 residents. Over the next several decades, the population growth was dramatic, and brought with it significant economic opportunities. Currently, the largest employers are in the areas of health care, financial services, technology, and tourism.

Scottsdale is often listed as one of the most livable cities in America. A favorable climate and beautiful scenery have always been Scottsdale's major attractions. Other factors often mentioned are the numerous educational and recreational opportunities available in Scottsdale and in the greater Phoenix area.



The Scottsdale Unified School District offers open enrollment to all students and prides itself on its academic achievements and overall student development. Nationally ranked private and public charter schools are also available. Higher Education opportunities include 10 community colleges in the Phoenix area, along with five campuses of Arizona State University, and numerous private colleges and universities.

With over 300 days of sunshine annually, Scottsdale offers numerous hiking and climbing adventures through trails located in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, along with 350 miles of bike lanes, dedicated bike paths and trails. In the greater Phoenix area, sports fans can enjoy year-round activities and events, including golf, spring training, college and professional football, basketball, baseball, and hockey.





Who we seek

Qualities of a rector

The community of St. Anthony is welcoming and warm; we seek a rector who is equally engaging, and who will help us engage with our school, our neighborhood, and our community. We are hard workers, good listeners, and open to new ideas, and we look to our rector to collaborate with us in outreach, evangelism and planning. We are looking for someone who is outgoing, and energetic, with a sense of humor.

As a congregation, we have been blessed with preachers who have a deep scriptural knowledge and practice, and can interpret

scripture as it relates to our everyday lives. We seek in a rector an inspired speaker of the Good News.

We seek a rector with a caring heart, and with a warm pastoral instinct. Several of our lay ministries provide pastoral care, and we want our rector to support these ministries and their lay leaders.

Reaching out beyond our walls to be Christ's heart and hands to those in need is a deep passion at St. Anthony. We want a rector who shares our dedication to outreach, both locally and internationally.

Our hopes and dreams for the future include a more diverse community, and we are looking for a priest who knows the value of a vibrant

“ Christ's heart, hands and feet ” to our neighbors

children and youth ministry, and can attract new families.

We envision a leader who is honest, discerning, collaborative and relevant. Our hope is that they are one of us, someone who cares about every person, and will walk with us while leading.

While we know that clergy formation may not include a business degree, we appreciate financial literacy and a good business sense.



Our Ministries

Christian Formation

Children's Ministry

The core of our ministry is the Sunday gatherings, centered on the Godly Play curriculum, a hands-on method of learning. It allows children to explore their faith through Bible stories.

Wednesday Bible Study

A small group Bible study that meets online on Wednesday afternoons.

Youth Ministry

The mission of Youth ministry is to help teenagers grow closer to God and to understand their place in this world. Meetings are every Sunday night for fellowship, music and Bible study.



Life Sharing

Arts Council

This is an outreach to the community by encouraging artists inside and outside our congregation to share their art with others.

Avid Readers

A ministry that consists of a group of church members and friends who enjoy reading and discussing a variety of good books.

Blessings of Belonging (BOBs)

Formed to develop relationships within and without our church, BOBs meets to foster fellowship through prayer, a shared meal and Bunco.

Seasoned Saints

Fellowship is the mission of this group to bring together parishioners for celebrations and service opportunities. All are welcome.

Operations/ Facilities

Facility Management

Maintenance of the buildings, parking lot and grounds is the responsibility of this ministry.

Investment Management Team

This team oversees and invests the funds of the St. Anthony Endowment Fund.

Office Angels

Office Angels support the work of the treasurer, accountant, parish administrator and Walking the Mourner's Path.

Stewardship

Participants on this committee plan and execute the yearly stewardship campaign.

Pastoral Ministries

Prayer Chain and Healing Prayer

Led by laity, these ministries offer prayers of support, healing prayers, and prayers of thanksgiving to all who wish them, and to their families and friends, both during and after communion services, and throughout the week.

St. Anthony Cares Companions Ministry

Companions strive to reach out to parishioners and strengthen the relationships in a culture of caring and supporting. This ministry mission is to ensure that "no one is alone."

Walking the Mourner's Path

St. Anthony owns and operates this national, highly acclaimed Christian bereavement program, offering a Christ-centered, scripturally sound and church-based eight-week grief support course for those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

Our Ministries

Spiritual Nourishment

Altar Guild

Altar Guild services continue through the pandemic. Wine is no longer offered, although hosts are offered in person and through the "Communion To Go" offering.

Choir

The music ministry continues to perform during the pandemic, though in a somewhat different manner. Music is provided under the current diocesan guidelines.

Circles of Grace

Started as a response to the pandemic, small groups gather over Zoom to strengthen faith and support one another.

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild continues to beautify the sanctuary with flower arrangements.

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers contribute to the quality of worship services by reading Scripture lessons, psalms and prayers of the people. Eucharistic Ministers also administer the cup at communion.

Ushers

Ushers are responsible for a friendly greeting to all who enter the church. They also look out for the needs of the congregation. In addition, ushers work closely with the St. Anthony Safety Team.



Outreach Ministries

Council Against Domestic Violence

This ministry works in conjunction with shelters for those suffering domestic abuse. Santa's Sleigh collects donations of toys, clothing, books, games and more for those unable to provide gifts for their families.

Dream Center

Volunteers spend one on one time with at-risk youth to help prepare them educationally and socially for their new lives.

Evangelism

Ongoing studies, such as "The Way," is overseen by this committee. New this year is live-streaming worship services. The church website and a new podcast initiative also fall under evangelism.

Golf Tournament

The St. Anthony Annual Charity Golf Tournament raises funds to support outreach ministries.

Habitat for Humanity

St. Anthony is a member of the Episcopal Habitat Coalition (EHC). The EHC provides funds and labor to build homes.

Haiti

St. Anthony has a longstanding relationship with the people of Sainte Croix Episcopal Church/School/Hospital, providing project funds, over-the-counter medications, and working alongside them on mission trips.



Outreach Ministries

Healthy Packs

Volunteers meet every week to pack weekend food for East Valley Title 1 students. Packs are distributed to about 3,000 students.

Inspire Garden & Labyrinth

This is a meditative path for the people of St. Anthony and our community. It is a place for spiritual well-being through prayer, gardening and fellowship.

"Make a Difference Day"

St. Anthony participates in the international Make a Difference Day. Members go into homes to provide assistance with tasks the homeowner is unable to manage.



Outreach Ministries

Men of St. Anthony (MOSA)

The mission of this group is to provide support and fellowship to each other, St. Anthony ministries and the local community.

Needlecraft for Needs

The group's credo is to show what being a follower of Christ is by caring for others. Knit hats, baby blankets and prayer shawls are created and given to those in need.

Vista del Camino Job and Career Center

St. Anthony volunteers assist job seekers with computer job searches and employment resources.

Our History



Original building built in 1989

History of St. Anthony on the Desert

- 1987** First worship service held in April in a local school.
- 1989** First permanent building erected, now serving as parish hall, offices and children and youth classrooms.
- 1998** Sanctuary and Christian Education Building completed.
- 2001** High school annual youth mission trips began. The trips have continued every year, with the exceptions of 2020 and 2021. Plans are underway to resume in 2022.
- 2006** We were recognized for outreach ministries, especially for Walking the Mourner's Path.



- 2008** The Council Against Domestic Violence began with the goal to educate and raise awareness of domestic violence and abuse.
- 2009** A successful three year capital campaign began that reduced mortgage debt by \$466,000. The Global Outreach Ministry began to support Millennium Development Goals of ending extreme poverty. Rwanda was the beneficiary of support for 29 children and two preschools. Additionally, farm animals were purchased and ten engineering scholarships for women were funded.
- 2010** First St. Anthony on the Desert Charity Golf Tournament was held. Proceeds fund outreach ministries. It has been held every year since, including 2020.
- 2011** The Global Outreach Ministry expanded to Haiti. We sponsored a nursing student and donated to an orphanage. Every two years, a mission team provides project funds and works alongside our friends at Sainte Croix Episcopal Church/School/Hospital in Leogane.
- 2016** The Inspire Labyrinth and Garden was created by church members. Parishioner support provided trees, benches and supplies.
- 2018** The "All-In" campaign began to raise funds for renovations in the parish building. Of the \$267,000 raised, \$73,000 went to the maintenance fund. Also this year, a gift helped pay down the mortgage.
- 2020** A designated gift was received to fund roof replacement on all three buildings.

Who We Are

St. Anthony is a welcoming community that honors diversity in all its forms, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, political views, religious affiliation, marital status, ethnicity, social or economic background.

St. Anthony is a suburban parish of 140 active households. 63% of our members are 60 to 80 years old. Until the Covid pandemic, our annual budget was roughly \$500,000, including just over \$360,000 from 120 pledging units. 61% of our parish is married. Parishioners travel from 5 to 25 minutes to attend services.

During the pandemic, our pledge income thankfully exceeded our budget by \$12,000. Our members respond generously to special appeals for campus needs and outreach projects, but we need help strengthening year-round stewardship and pledging.

In the five years prior to the pandemic, our average Sunday attendance was 168.



Who We Are

*Quotes from St. Anthony on the Desert parishioners



*"We live our lives in a mission field."**
*"I brought a friend to a service. The warmth and love she experienced brought tears to her eyes."**

Again and again, parishioners recount the meaningful acts experienced at St. Anthony. Attending Sunday services, passing the peace, serving the homeless, working with Habitat for Humanity, walking our labyrinth and enjoying fellowship with each other.



*"We have a unique way of getting people involved beyond our community. Our passion is being able to connect to people with the word of Christ."**

During the pandemic, we first recorded and posted services then moved on to live streaming. A podcast called "On the Way Moments" is next up for our digital presence. At St. Anthony love is shown in tangible and intangible ways. The Ministry to Haiti team has improved the lives of children at an Episcopal church school in Leogane, Haiti. A men's homeless center in Mesa, AZ has received meals, donated bikes and a bike repair shop from the men of St. Anthony's. Youth in our church have been on mission trips, performed community service and have had a place to be with young people of faith.

Covid safe communion to-go



*"The love that is shown to each other."**
*Especially this year, recognizing a birthday or anniversary might be the only celebration for that event. You guys are my family."**

We take care of each other. Prayer shawls knitted by our Needlecraft for Needs ministry are given to members and non-members alike for comfort. One has traveled to New Zealand.

Prayers, visits and other needs are willingly shared to those who need help. Every Sunday, the rector asks if there have been any birthdays or anniversaries the past week. The congregation prays over these people, celebrating with them. We have a passion to be welcoming and inclusive, celebrating diversity.

*"To seek and serve Christ, fulfilling our baptismal vows."**

In order of importance, parishioners list worship at the top of the list of ministries. Next is Children's and Youth Formation: Through Godly Play, our children enter into the stories and explore their faith. Our EPIC (Endless Possibilities In Christ) youth group meets on Sundays to explore their faith, ask questions and have fun in a safe environment.

Outreach follows with Habitat for Humanity, Needlecrafts for Needs, East Valley Men's Center and the Council Against Domestic Violence. Pastoral Care is next with ministry within and without our walls.

Adult Formation is important too, with our program "The Way," and Lenten studies every year. Fellowship is central to who we are through coffee hours, special celebrations and working together in our ministries.

Who We Aspire To Be

Central to the hopes and dreams of St. Anthony on the Desert parishioners in fast-growing Scottsdale is the wish to grow our church based on God's call to us to live His work in our lives.

We feel the need to be adaptable in the wake of the pandemic. We have had a strong online presence and want to continue to reach people this way. Stronger engagement with our mission field is a top priority. A Montessori preschool is a tenant in the church school building on our campus. A large housing development shares our borders.

In many ways, we want to be who we have been, only more so. We see as our strengths our welcoming nature and our many opportunities for outreach within and without our congregation.



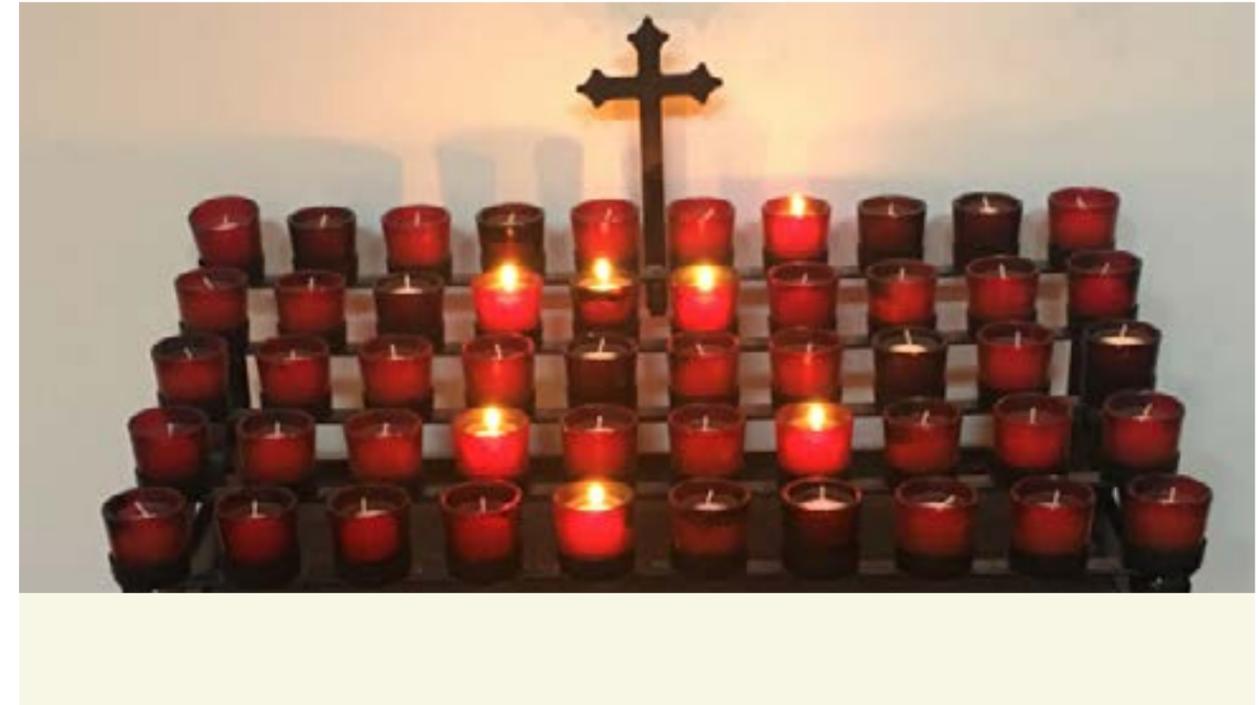
Christian formation is a top priority, especially for children and youth. We would like to have more intergenerational opportunities to draw us closer together.

Pastoral care is very high on the list. Many of our members have expressed the wish for deeper involvement from our rector in times of need.

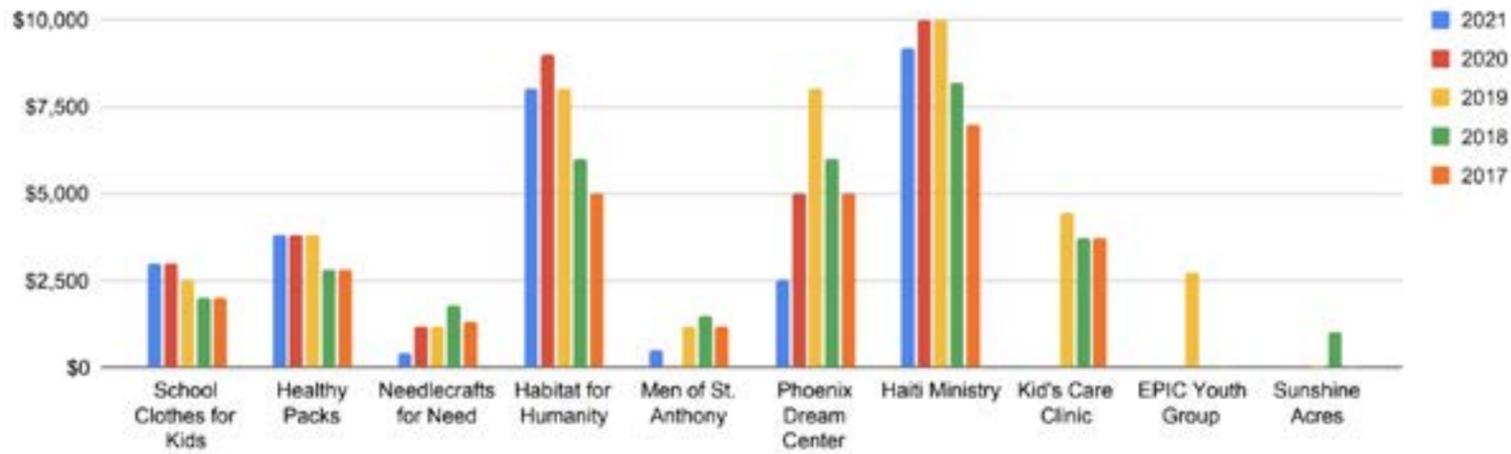
Parishioners would like to see more options for services, such as services on different days and offering different styles of liturgy. For example, Saturday evening times and more music based liturgy.

Also on the list is financial concerns. We've paid down the mortgage, now we want to pay it off.

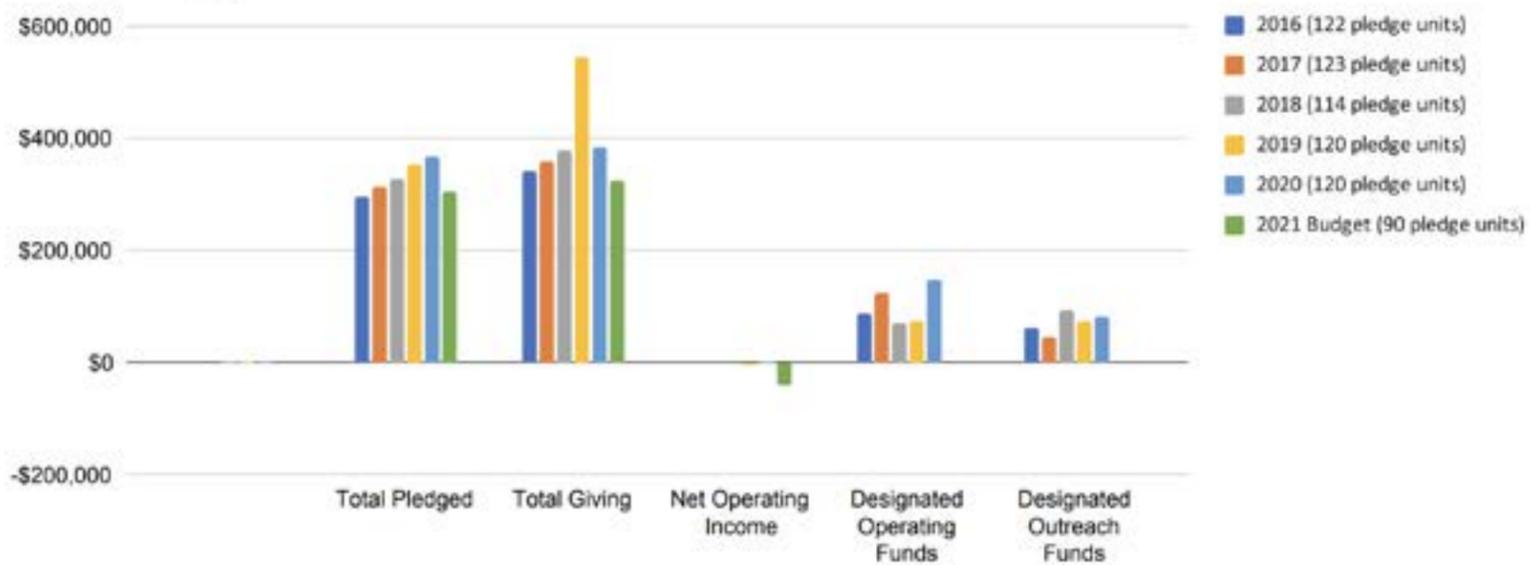
Financial Summary



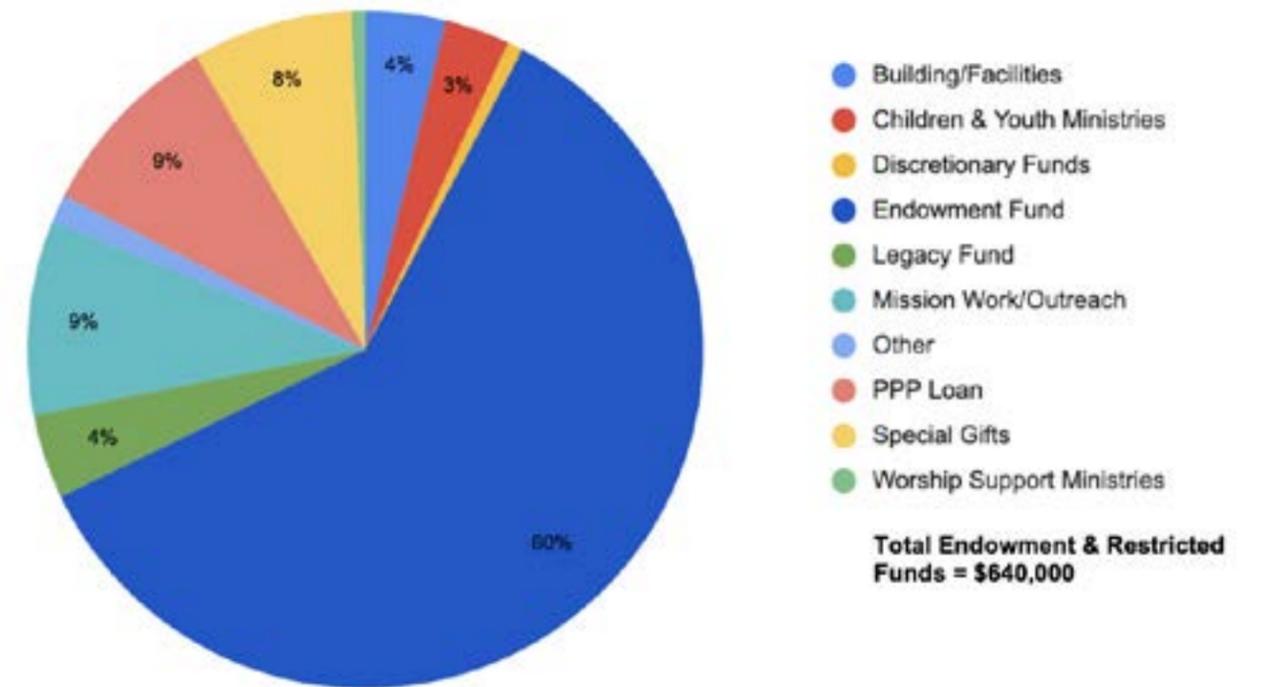
Historical Grant Outreach Distribution



Financial History



Endowment & Restricted Funds





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