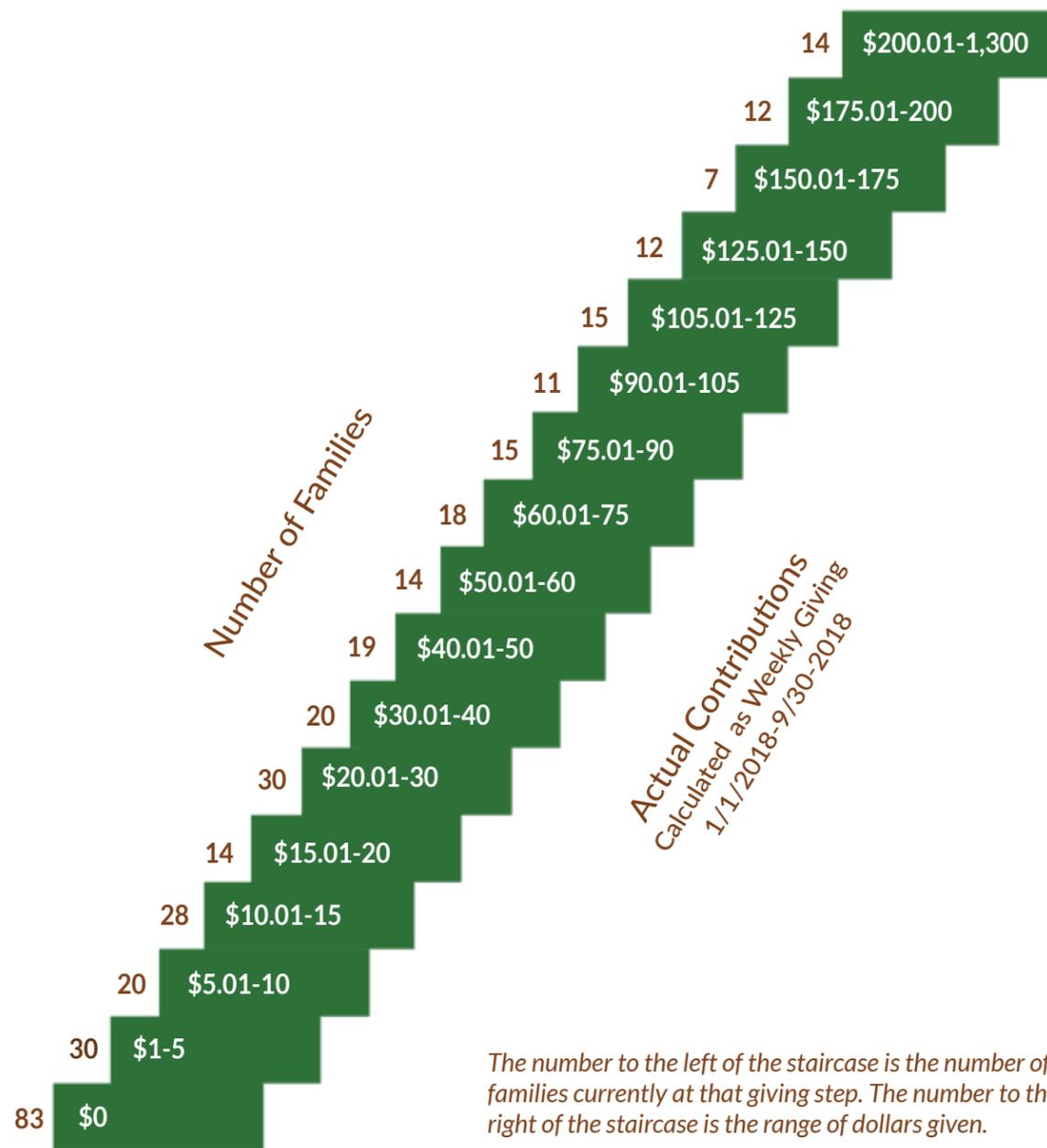


# Step Up in 2019

This is an exciting chart! In 2016, we had 121 families who gave ZERO dollars. Thus far in 2018, we have only 83 families who have given zero. This chart of actual giving (to date) shows that we are sharing the opportunity and responsibility of ministry at St. Barnabas.

Where is your family on this chart? Are you ready to step up for 2019?

## 2018 Chart of Member Giving



The number to the left of the staircase is the number of families currently at that giving step. The number to the right of the staircase is the range of dollars given.

*Generosity is a matter of faith.*

ST. BARNABAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Enough.

*simplicity . . . generosity . . . joy*

## Celebrating Generosity as a Way of Life

By Rev. Virginia O. (Ginger) Bassford, PhD, Senior Pastor



As we looked at the theme for this year's stewardship campaign, it seemed only natural to talk about generosity as a way of life. St. Barnabas United Methodist Church has been a congregation of great generosity ever since its inception. I remember meeting with a group of laity from St. Barnabas — Dr. John Lukert, Dr. Clifton Howard and District Superintendent Rev. Ruth Huber Rohlfes — as we were planning the very first Central Texas Conference Youth in Mission program (CTCYM) in 1993-94. St. Barnabas was the first place Ruth and I went to present the idea to a congregation. The people were enthusiastic and said, "Yes, let's do this!" Fast forward to 2018, and the youth of St. Barnabas worked on some 20 houses through this life-giving ministry because of your great generosity. Oh, but the story doesn't end there . . .

In 2018, St. Barnabas has funded an entire village in Nicaragua, giving over \$125,000 for the infrastructure and beginnings of 25 homes. (We have raised and given far more than that when you include what was given in 2017.) Add to that over \$10,000 given to hurricane relief for those affected by Harvey, Irma and Maria and over \$2,730 shared for materials for flood buckets.

Locally, we've contributed over \$13,000 to the Open Arms Health Clinic and provided Christmas for 63 families who, without that gift, would not have had Christmas. We have given school supplies and backpacks, Thanksgiving baskets and Sunday evening meals for those who are hungry, not to mention over \$1,200 for turkeys. We have given the fruits of our labor through both the Polytechnic United Community Center and through Habitat for Humanity. In addition to all that, St. Barnabas has given OVER \$10,000 total to its departing pastors this year.

*You truly practice abundant generosity!*

As you read the stories on the following pages, look at the generosity St. Barnabas spreads around — we don't want to brag about it, but we also can't help but celebrate the mighty work that God accomplishes through this congregation.

(continued, page 3)

# Generosity is a matter of faith.

By Suzanne Atlas

I often tell people that the week I spend on a CTCYM (Central Texas Conference on Youth Mission) mission trip is always one of my hardest weeks of the year. I also follow that statement with another tidbit: it is also one of my most favorite weeks of the year. It is a week that helps me refocus my own faith journey. It is a week that restores my belief that our world is in good hands for the future. It is a week that allows me to see that today's youth have a strong faith. It is a week where I get the opportunity to help foster and grow a shared faith!



"This is one of the pictures that makes me see my 'God Moments' of CTCYM." – Suzanne Atlas

*This community of faith is why I give my time.*

I worked in education for 22 years and love working with that wonderful group in this world known as teenagers. I love to be able to encourage them and help them discover who they are and what they want to become. No matter the situation, seeing their eyes light up with that "aha moment" is the best thing ever!

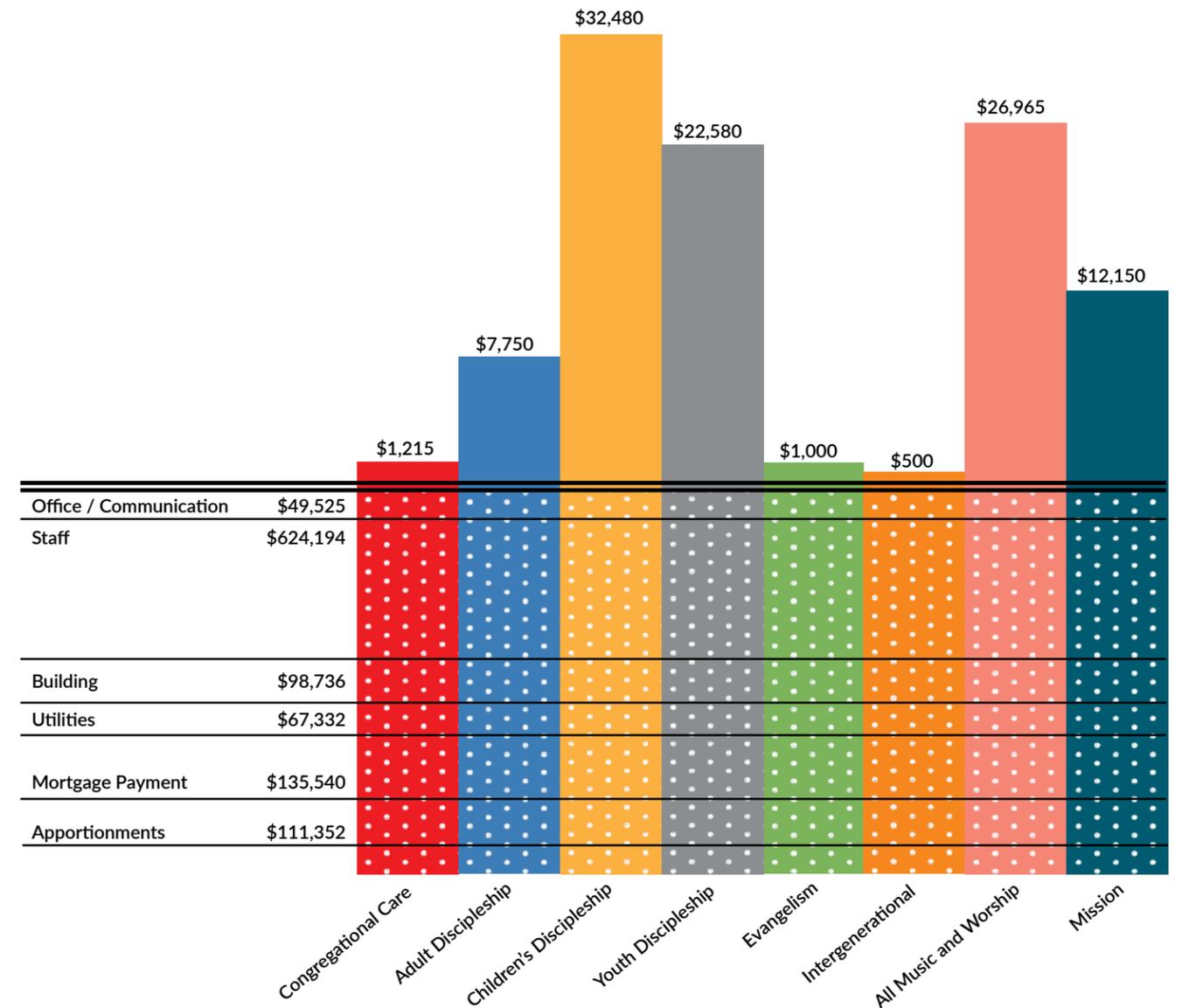
As an adult on a CTCYM trip, you not only have your own "God moments" and "aha moments," but you get to witness youth having these same experiences. I went on several high school trips before becoming a parent. As a parent, I've gone on the junior high trips with my own kids. The junior high trip is often filled with kids who are on their very first mission trip, and some are away from home for the first time. It is a week of making sure that, as an adult, I am watching so many different things. Are the kids eating, are they sleeping, are they all making at least one connection to someone on their own team? Are they homesick? While watching all of this, you see them lose their uncertainty and emerge as leaders. You see them have that "aha moment" where they realize they really are capable of completing the task before them. They really are able to be the hands and feet of Christ in order to help someone's life improve. You hear them share their God moments with their team and with others at the living center. You see them go to evening worship every night exhausted but ready to praise God and worship. As I stated before, with these young Christians in our lives, I feel secure in our futures. They truly embody Mark 12:30, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." They are building a community of faith! This community of faith is why I give my time.

## YOUTH

Our Youth continue to build on the momentum of last year and seek ways to connect and lead within the walls of our church and beyond. In September, they were challenged to invite a friend to join them for a "BOGO" Youth night. We had 45 teens that Sunday for worship and hangout time, and four of those continue to participate each week. Wednesday nights, however, have brought in the most new Youth with the most consistent numbers and the most participation and group talk. And recently, it was announced that our Young Adult Ministry for ages 18-25 is back. Kaitlyn Jackson, Director of Youth Discipleship, along with volunteers are making plans to send care packages to our college students during finals and planning events during school breaks.

# Visual of 2019 Budget

The graph below is a visual representation of our 2019 Budget showing that office, communications, staff, building and utilities expenses, along with our mortgage payment and apportionments – the expenses shown below the double line – are all foundational expenses. These non-negotiable expenses have to be paid before ministry can even begin to happen at St. Barnabas. The expenses shown above the double line are the funds budgeted for each ministry area above these foundational costs.



# Generosity is a matter of encouragement.

e•van•ge•lism

noun: the spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness.



What do you think of when you hear the word “evangelism”? To many, it’s an uncomfortable word, even a little scary, conjuring up images of standing on a street corner espousing the good news of Jesus Christ to all who pass. But sometimes, it’s as simple as an invitation and encouragement. And it was just that, an invitation, that ultimately led the Goble family to become part of St. Barnabas.

“We connected with St. Barnabas long before we became members,” says Jerry Goble. “Our daughter Megan attended the Pre-K program when she was 3 and 4 years old. Our son Ethan started attending VBS in 1st grade, and Megan attended soon after. A few years later, Ethan became good friends with Tyler Rayburn through Little Elementary, and he started attending Youth on Sundays.” It was through this

friendship that the Gobles became close to the Rayburn family.

Jerry is a band director and saxophone player by trade, which led Tyler’s father, Robert Rayburn, to approach Jerry about playing with the Encounter Band in January of 2018.

“Robert believed that I’d be a great addition on Sundays. I took a couple of months and gave this opportunity some thought. Then the unthinkable happened.”

Robert Rayburn passed away unexpectedly on March 11 of this year.

“Robert’s passing left an emptiness inside me that I couldn’t explain. Maybe it was because we were the same age, or perhaps it was something bigger. I started rethinking how I approached my life from that moment on.”

*The following Sunday, the Goble family attended the Encounter church service.*

“I felt a calling to join the Encounter band and reached out to the worship leader. Playing in the band gave me an outlet to celebrate and honor the passing of a good friend. I had a deeper connection with St. Barnabas than ever before, and I knew that this is where we needed to be,” explains Jerry.

It was that invitation to play with the praise band that ultimately changed the lives of the Goble family. On Sunday, September 9, 2018, Jerry, Ethan and Megan were baptized, and along with mom Margarita, through profession of faith, they became members of St. Barnabas United Methodist Church.

*From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded. — Luke 2:48*

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. — 2 Corinthians 9:7*

## Making Budgeting a Family Philosophy

The Schillig Family — Jeremy, Jessica, Austin and Ellie — strive to be good stewards with all that God has given them.

“Giving to the church is important in my and Jeremy’s life so that we are able to help support the mission and vision of the church,” says Jessica. “We also like to help fund various needs for the church that are meaningful to us.”

And, for Jeremy and Jessica, it’s never too early to teach their children the importance of financial responsibility and generosity.

“We wanted to teach our kids to be financially responsible, so we listened to Dave Ramsey’s book *Smart Money, Smart Kids*. The book teaches the budgeting philosophy of *Give, Save, and Spend*,” says Jessica. “For all that is earned, a portion always goes to give. We implemented the practices from this book and began teaching Austin and Ellie that by doing work, they can earn money.”

So, how does it work for this family? Austin and Ellie have daily and weekly chores that provide them the opportunity to earn a fixed amount of money. They can earn extra money by doing extra work or chores above and beyond the required duties. At the end of each week they are “paid,” and they budget their money into the three categories.

“Every Sunday that we attend church, the kids empty their give money to place in the offering,” says Jessica.

But the lessons the Schilligs are teaching their children go further than just giving alone, it also encompasses the “why” of giving. When asked why Austin likes to give, he sums it up this way, “I like giving because it makes me feel good to give money to the church that can help the poor.”



### *Celebrating Generosity (continued from page 1)*

Thank you, church! Thank you for your great generosity and stewardship. As you read, you will see that our congregation continues to practice fiscal responsibility with every dollar you give. You will see we have made some cuts this year as we continue to live into a balanced budget. The finance team has worked hard. Through your great gifts of generosity, we are moving forward to “great strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.” God’s faithfulness is great. Thank you for your faithfulness back to God!

DESCRIPTION	2018 BUDGET	2019 BUDGET
Staff	\$648,900	\$624,194
Office and Communication	\$60,950	\$49,525
Building & Upkeep	\$64,796	\$98,736
Utilities	\$66,000	\$67,332
Mortgage Payment	\$135,763	\$135,540
Apportionments	\$123,026	\$111,352
Congregational Care	\$850	\$1,215
Mission	\$12,150	\$12,150
Adult Discipleship	\$3,500	\$7,750
Children’s Discipleship	\$38,910	\$32,480
Youth Discipleship	\$18,705	\$22,580
Intergenerational	\$0	\$500
Evangelism	\$1,500	\$1,000
All Music and Worship	\$28,338	\$26,965
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$1,203,388</b>	<b>\$1,191,319</b>

This chart shows the 2018 budget compared to the proposed 2019 budget.

# Generosity is a matter of heart.

*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. — 1 Thessalonians 5:18*

By Bonnie Flynt

We had departed Matagalpa early and driven for miles along the sinuous, two-lane highway, slowly winding our way up into the verdant, jungle-like mountains of northern Nicaragua. The morning was spectacular: blue skies and breathtaking vistas. Coffee plantations, tiny villages, ragged animals and slow-moving pedestrians slipped past our windows. There we were, in our cozy, comfortable bubble in a foreign land.

Suddenly our driver slowed, pulled off onto the grassy, almost-shoulder of the road, and Megan, our friend, guide and Rainbow Network's leader, shouted, "Okay, everybody, here we go. Grab your backpack and watch your footing." We novices were reluctant, nervous. "What? Where are we? Where are the buildings . . . and the people? Why did I come here?!" Then, just as quickly, three or four smiling locals and Rainbow Network people appeared, grabbing us by the arms and whisking us one at a time down into the roadside ditch and up the steep embankment. No steps, no railings, no nothing. Just supporting hands. In a flash, we were enveloped by a swirl of smiling, kissing, hugging, singing, glorious people, ushering us into their tin-roofed, open-air community center, welcoming the people of St. Barnabas with songs, dance, gifts, bouquets of flowers, speeches, balloons, streamers, handmade signs and unabashed love.



*That was the day my life shifted.*

I had taken a leap of faith, said a lot of prayers and done it! The joy I have found in giving of my time, energy and resources has enriched me beyond measure. I have made new friends, both at St. Barnabas and abroad, and would not trade those relationships for anything. My husband Herrell and I support Rainbow Network by sponsoring Hazel, a high school student, and by financially supporting, alongside many of

MISSION



you at St. Barnabas, the construction of 25 cinder block homes in the Granadillo 2 community. Together we are helping change the lives of those people. Looking into their faces, one sees the love of Christ, the gift he gives us all, asking that we pass it on and on.

It is unrealistic for most people to travel to Nicaragua, but going there is not necessary. And, it does not have to be Nicaragua or Rainbow Network. *It can be local. It can be the Polytechnic United Community Center, Open Arms Health Clinic, Arlington Life Shelter, Arlington Urban Ministries, St. Barnabas United Methodist Church.* The act of giving — giving time, giving support, giving dollars, giving love — that is what it's all about. It is hard to do, but, boy, give it away, and it will bless you beyond belief!

By Becky Kennedy

I was fortunate this summer to volunteer for St. Barnabas Vacation Bible School at two locations. They were both memorable for me! There is nothing more rewarding than receiving an "unsolicited hug" from a child, especially in the midst of strangers, which was the case at the Polytechnic United Community Center VBS.

My first day of service at Poly, I met up with Yolanda and her son, Travon. I had previously met them last Christmas at the wrapping event our church had for Angel Tree gifts, and we have kept in touch since. Travon is quite the basketball player, and I get invited to his games. Again, it was a wonderful feeling to walk into a group of strangers and immediately receive a hug from him! Of course, that led the way to even more hugs from his friends (Yay, me!).

I was again blessed to have met Grean's family. Grean and I spent time with her son and daughter teaching crafts. What fun . . . and then imagine my surprise when they arrived the following Sunday here at St. Barnabas to worship and sing songs they had learned during VBS. I still keep in touch, and I'm waiting to hear that her husband passed his citizenship test. It sounded challenging, and I'm not sure I would have passed it!

I am thankful for having the opportunity to spend time at Polytechnic United Community Center. It was truly a blessing in more ways than one, and I'm looking forward to returning many more times!



Children's Ministry events continue to give us the best opportunity to invite those in our community, including the families of our Early Education Center, to be a part of the life and ministry of St. Barnabas.

- We had 216 children and 90 volunteers on campus for a fun week of learning about God during Vacation Bible School, one of our biggest outreach events. But this year, we turned it up a notch, hosting a second VBS for the children served by the Polytechnic United Community Center with a great group of church volunteers working alongside the Poly teachers to provide this fun experience for 40 children in east Fort Worth.
- Our Parents Night Out program has also continued to grow, averaging 40-50 children each month.
- One of our biggest additions was Children's Ministry partnering with EEC to purchase the Big Block Indoor Playground. This indoor playground allowed families in our church and community to have a fun, cool place to play during the hot, summer months and will give our EEC kiddos a place to play on inclement weather days during the school year.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES