



IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2024 MINISTRY IMPACT REPORT



Beloved,

As autumn reveals itself across Memphis, the leadership of Idlewild Presbyterian Church has spent time reflecting on all God has accomplished through our church in 2024.

We have witnessed seeds planted over the last few years bearing fruit in our midst. In January, we welcomed Mary Newberg Gale as our new Associate Pastor for Adult Formation and Care. While Mary had served amongst us over the last few years, her permanent installation marked a significant moment in the life of our church. Our Music Ministry has continued to blossom and our regional leadership role in the sacred music community has grown significantly. Our Children's Ministry has continued its vibrance while our Youth Ministry has undergone an exciting revitalization. Our Diaconate has grown into its new calling to care for the souls and spirits of our faith family while our outreach ministry to our neighbors has broadened as our participation in Room In The Inn has increased.

The Spirit's work in our midst has been undeniable, and for that, we are deeply grateful!

As we look to the year ahead and as we dream together about what God will author, we find ourselves at an important moment in the history of Idlewild where your decision to commit generously to God's ministry through our church is more necessary than ever. At present, only 1 in 3 active households make financial commitments to Idlewild, and the future health of our church necessitates that figure increase significantly. We need everyone who calls Idlewild home, who values her mission and presence in the community, to dedicate themselves to generously supporting the ministries of the church. Now, more than ever, your generosity will be critical in shaping our church's future.

In this booklet, you will find a narrative and visual breakdown of how your generosity has made an impact in 2024. We hope it reinforces the commitment made by the leadership of Idlewild Presbyterian Church to be good and faithful stewards of your financial gifts, and we hope it inspires even greater trust and generosity in the year ahead.

As leaders of Idlewild, we believe that God has given us all the resources necessary to do Spirit-inspired ministry, and we firmly believe that our membership will answer the call to *Grow in Gratitude*. As pastor, I am grateful that our Deacons and Elders are leading the way for us. Along with the entire Generosity Committee, Idlewild's officers have already made their financial commitments for 2025. Our hope is that you will join them in making your commitment today.

In Great Hope,







The Reverend David J. Powers

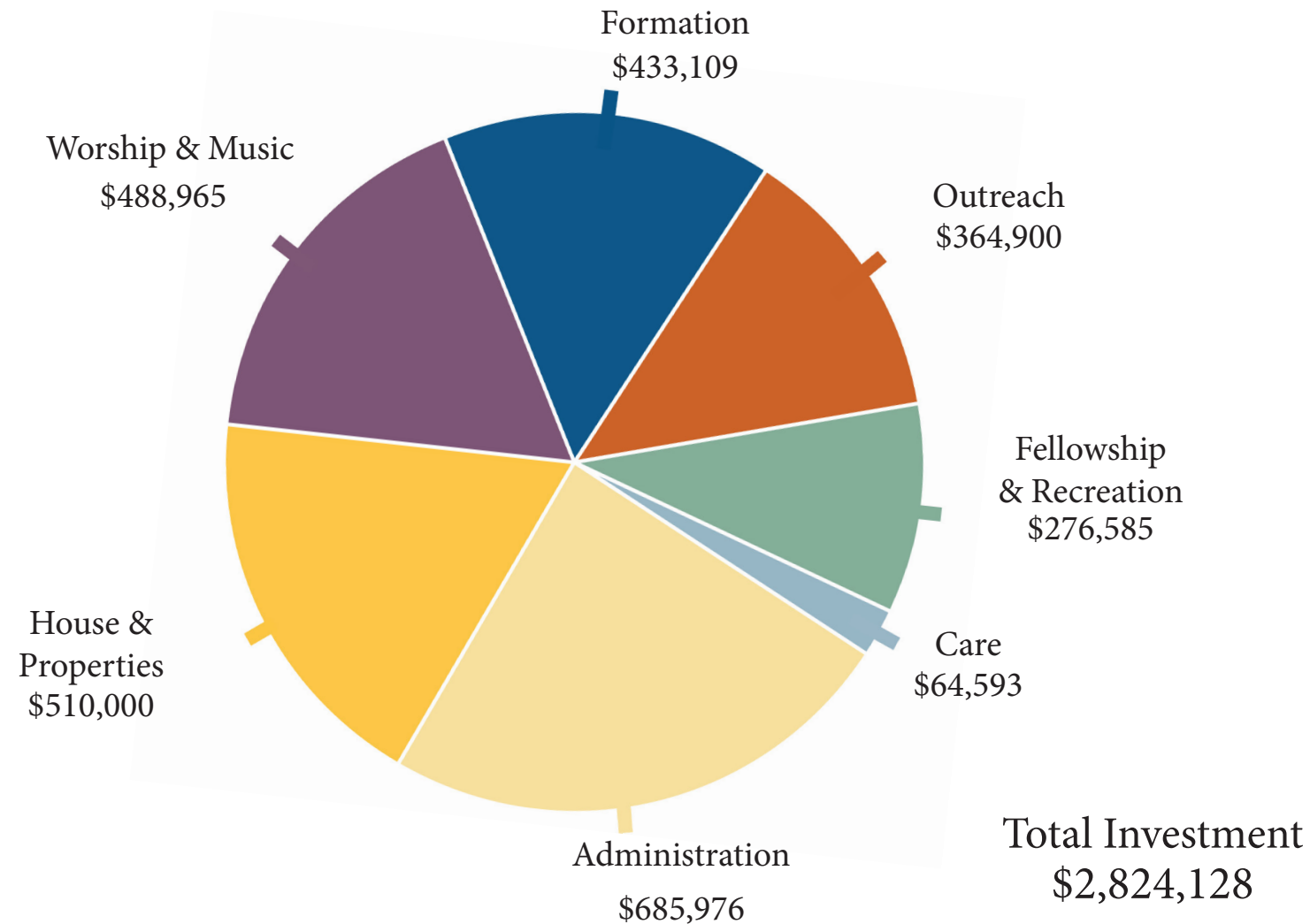
The Budget:

Idlewild's budget is a theological document. Just as your household budget communicates your values, how the church allocates its financial resources says a great deal about how we understand and follow the Triune God.

As Christ teaches in Matthew 6:21, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

To simplify presentation, we have distilled hundreds of line items down to the six ministry areas that make up our Church's structure. Since we understand our personnel as vital to our ministries, each category includes a proportional percentage of the investment that we make in staff for the ministries of the church (pastoral, administrative, custodial, kitchen, maintenance, and programmatic).

	Worship & Music includes the specific investments we make to shape sacred worship services.
	Outreach includes our ministries of compassion and justice across Memphis and the world.
	Christian Formation includes our ministries to children, youth, young adults, and adults.
	Fellowship and Recreation includes Joyful Fellowship, Recreation, and 1750 Arts.
	Care includes our Diaconate's ministries of welcome, connection, visitation, and prayer.
	Administration includes our communications, property, technology, bookkeeping, food services, and generosity ministries. We have noted property expenses separately for visual purposes because of their significant financial impact.



WORSHIP & MUSIC \$488,965



Worship is our natural response to God's love, shaping us as God's people, and inspiring us to reflect Christ's light in the world. Idlewild is known for excellence in worship, and this year has been marked by exciting and faithful growth.

Throughout 2024, we have seen consistently strong in-person attendance at both our Chapel and Sanctuary services. It has been encouraging to see a rise in virtual engagement even as we have migrated our online worship experiences to YouTube. Throughout July, worshipping in the Gym provided a more relaxed experience while also affording the opportunity for needed cleaning and care in the Sanctuary.

Our Music Ministry has continued its resurgence with the roster of the Chancel Choir now boasting 40 dedicated members. Our Children's Choirs, launched last fall in connection with *Woven Together Wednesdays*, continues to expand with strong participation from children and families. For the first time in recent memory, our Handbell Choir has 12 ringers to enliven our worship throughout the new programmatic year.

In addition to the growth of our ensembles, we were pleased to present our first annual Festival of Christmas concert during the Advent of 2023. The event was an incredible success with over 600 attendees, many of whom were not members of Idlewild.

We continued to deepen our connection to the wider sacred music community by hosting chorales from the University of Tennessee - Chattanooga and Nebraska Wesleyan University as well as the Youth Choir from Belmont United Methodist Church (Nashville). Additionally, we served as the MidSouth Regional host for the Presbyterian Association of Musicians - *Festival of Choirs*.

*Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!
Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!*
- Psalm 150

OUTREACH \$364,900



Freed by God's grace, called to be the body of Christ, and led by the Holy Spirit, Idlewild extended its hands to all in need and helped build a more just, inclusive, and welcoming community in Memphis and beyond. Through our Care Closet, Midtown Legal Clinic, More than a Meal, and Room in the Inn ministries, the church building's physical space has been faithfully stewarded to foster deeper connections with our siblings in Christ who live on society's margins.

Outside the church building, our relational work entered our community through the consistent, faithful, and steady actions of all those serving through Adopt-a-School, Friends of the Mental Health Court, McMerton Gardens, MICAH, and No Longer Strangers. This relational work also extended to Cuba and Ghana as congregants traveled to engage with our international mission partners - Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church and Living Waters for the World.

Finally, thanks to generous donations and funds from Idlewild's endowment, our Compassion Fund shared over \$24,500 with 128 people needing emergency assistance with rent, utilities, and prescription medications, and our Community Support Grants shared \$79,800 with 28 community non-profits who provide compassionate services in the Memphis area.

*I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*
- Matthew 25:35-36



FORMATION

\$433,109



Children's Ministry

This year has seen our Children's Ministry become more settled in a new space and model for our Sunday School offerings. Updated furnishing and teaching tools helped our spaces feel like home for our children as we have seen steady participation from 45-60 children weekly. *Worship and Wonder*, which takes place during the Sanctuary service, is bursting at the seams with more than 20 children each week. Over the summer, we saw significant growth in Vacation Bible School which grew from 60 children in 2023 to over 100 this year.

To support our parents, we introduced a new Parents' Prayer Group which meets each Friday morning. On average, 8 parents come together to share life and pray for and with each other. Finally, the launch of a Baptism Cohort has engaged 12 families in Spirit-filled fellowship.

*Jesus said,
"Let the children
come to me,
and do not stop them,
for it is to such as these
that the kingdom
of heaven belongs."
-Matthew 19:14*



Youth Ministry

This year, we have seen an increase in the reach of our Youth Ministry into the broader Midtown Memphis community. Half of the youth who attend our weekly programming are not members of Idlewild. This summer we saw twenty-four Middle Schoolers at our Club VBS and at our weekly meetups. 11 of those youth are from visiting families who are not members. To us, this illustrates that Idlewild's model of Christian faith resonates with young people and that our willingness to invite others into faithful fellowship can shape a strong ministry.

Over the summer, your generosity enabled the hiring of an intern who facilitated programming which enabled our full-time staff to zoom out of the day-to-day and focus dedicated energy on big picture, long term planning.

Your investment has also enabled the expansion of our permanent staff for Children and Youth Ministries. Currently, a team is searching for a new Associate Director of Children and Youth Ministries who will care for our growing Middle School Ministry and provide specialized programming and ministerial care to this vibrant group. They will also dedicate energy to care for our preschool children and their families.

*Train children
in the right way,
and when old,
they will not stray.
- Proverbs 22:6*



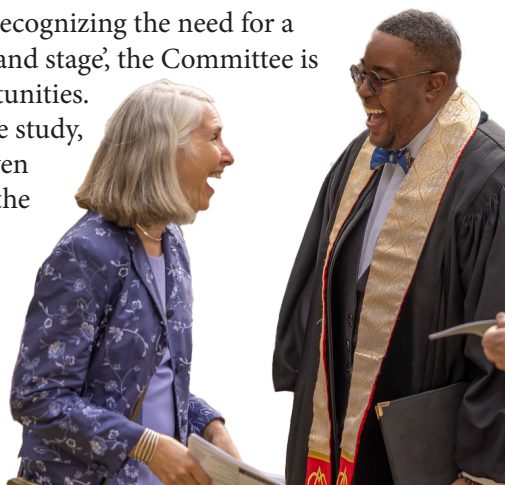


Adult & Young Adult Ministry

A vibrant Christian faith requires continual spiritual nurture and regular formation practices. This year, the Adult Formation Ministry has provided for those needs while offering additional opportunities to meet the growing needs of our congregation. We developed a special offering called *Eldercare 101: Caring for Our Parents and Ourselves* to help those provide care to aging loved ones. We launched *Woven Together Wednesdays* as a midweek opportunity for our Idlewilders to wrestle with vital issues of faith and scriptures. In addition, we facilitated a second Sacred Ground group, a cohort focused on the intersection of race and faith, and we were privileged to host Dr. Catherine Meeks to teach on her work *The Night is Long but Light Comes in the Morning* as well as preach from the pulpit of Idlewild. We launched a *Disciples Bible Study (Fast Track)* focused on the New Testament, and continued our Navigating Grief series focused on grief during the holiday season. For the first time since 2020, we celebrated the return of the Lenten Lectio Small Groups.

At the same time, the Young Adult Formation Committee continued to envision a thriving Young Adult Ministry at Idlewild. Recognizing the need for a variety of opportunities to gather around 'age and stage', the Committee is visioning new and sustainable ministry opportunities. As we vision, we have gathered for meals, Bible study, trivia, and theological conversation, and we even took second place in the first annual Battle of the Congregations at First Presbyterian Church!

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and the prayers.
- Acts 2:42



FELLOWSHIP & RECREATION

\$276,585



This year brought a new vision and fresh energy as this ministry area's leadership team received approval from Session to shift our identity from Nurture to Fellowship and Recreation. In addition to the new name, a new mission statement clarified how this ministry serves the Body of Christ we call Idlewild: "As we renew our bodies and spirits through play, Sabbath, creativity, and community, we joyfully discover Christ knitting us together and building us up in love." This reimagined structure empowered Fellowship and Recreation to grow in its current ministry and to envision what new things may arise that restore the health of our bodies and spirits.

Fellowship and Recreation offered opportunities for play through its athletics programs, yoga classes, a running group, Idlewild's programmatic year kickoff celebration, and the Halloween Carnival. Opportunities for Sabbath occurred through two retreats at NaCoMe – an all-church retreat in October and an adult-centered retreat in March. Creativity was nourished through our pottery studio and the resurrection of 1750 Arts, an arts ministry that stirs imagination, provokes wonder, forms faith, and invites transformation. Finally, the knitting together of our community occurred through our Pentecost and All Saints' potlucks, Food & Fellowship gatherings for Advent and Shrove Tuesday, Community & Connection events, Older Wilder gatherings and service projects, and our transportation ministry, which picks up congregants from Trezevant for worship on Sunday mornings.

"...we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."
- Ephesians 4:15-16



PROPERTY

\$510,000

We are grateful to steward the precious property which God has entrusted to our care, and the preservation of our historic buildings necessitates significant annual investment.

This year we began to address many roofing issues on both the flat roof of the Jones Building and the slate roof of the Sanctuary Building. We addressed the root cause of moisture infiltration in the exterior walls of the Sanctuary Building by clearing 13 downspouts and replacing mortar that was almost 100 years old. Furthermore, we initiated a study to replace the boilers that have served the Sanctuary Building for over 50 years. We have fixed many of the broken windows in the Jones Building and trusting in your continuing generosity, we plan to replace more in the year ahead.

Currently, a significant clean-out is underway in the basement and storage areas of the Sanctuary Building to ensure the safety of the building and prepare for necessary repairs and improvements.

*By wisdom a house is built,
and by understanding it is established;
by knowledge the rooms are filled with all
precious and pleasant riches.*

- Proverbs 24:3-4



LEGACY

Within the fabric of our city and denomination, the legacy of Idlewild is deeply rooted. As a leading Presbyterian voice, our witness has been one of welcome and depth scarcely seen in 21st-century American Christendom. As the landscape of religious life in America undergoes significant changes, Idlewild's vitality grows more and more crucial.

A church that emphasizes radical inclusion, intellectual engagement, abounding grace, and courageous advocacy is critical to our city and world. The endowment is an important instrument to ensure that the legacy of Idlewild Church can grow in the decades ahead.

This year, we will launch a full-fledged legacy giving campaign. Moving forward, those who make legacy commitments will become members of The Cornerstone Society which recognizes those who have committed to the ongoing ministry and mission of Idlewild Presbyterian Church by including the Church in their will or estate plan.

The *Cornerstone Society* seeks to *ensure* the faithful and prophetic witness of Idlewild Presbyterian Church, to *safeguard* her calling to shape disciples of Jesus Christ, and to *enable* her exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world, now and for future generations.

At Idlewild, we believe that everyone can leave a legacy.

*For the promise is for you, for your children,
and for all who are far away, everyone
whom the Lord our God calls to him.*
- Acts 2:39



Generosity by the Numbers

Breakdown of Total Generosity:

	2022	2023	2024
Commitments	332	301	319
Average Commitment	\$6,639	\$6,617	\$6,783
Total Amount Committed	\$2,204,095	\$1,991,839	\$2,163,759

Takeaways:

- Our top 10 commitments make up 20% of total giving.
- Our average commitment (\$6,783) is higher than it has been since we began tracking in 2019.
- The most significant opportunity for growth is with our members between 30 to 59 years of age, where only 1/3 of active households make commitments.
- Uncommitted giving continues to increase. After doubling last year, uncommitted gifts have unpaced even our ambitious projections.

Breakdown of Commitments:

Age	Households who Commit	Total Households
20 - 29	4	175
30 - 39	30	125
40 - 49	35	101
50 - 59	46	114
60 - 69	69	124
70 - 79	63	119
80 - 89	49	79
90 +	7	23

Generosity Committee: Jody Brown | Ted Cashion | Keith Cole | Carol Fields | Ellis Haddad
Debi Havner | Epps Jones | Karen Matthews | Pete Sanders (chair) | John Thatcher

Legacy Giving Sub-Committee: Wendy Ansbro | Ed Beasley | Jody Brown
Keith Cole (co-chair) | Kristin Croone | Ellis Haddad | Elizabeth Rouse (co-chair)



GROWING *in* GRATITUDE

Thank you for your commitment to God's work through the life and ministries of Idlewild Presbyterian Church.

Please fill out the commitment card below and bring it to church on **Commitment Sunday, October 27.**

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

I commit to give \$ _____ total in 2025. I plan to give weekly monthly quarterly

I would like assistance setting up a recurring gift in Realm.

I would like information about becoming a member of the Cornerstone Society by documenting my intention to leave a planned gift.

Signature _____ Date _____



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