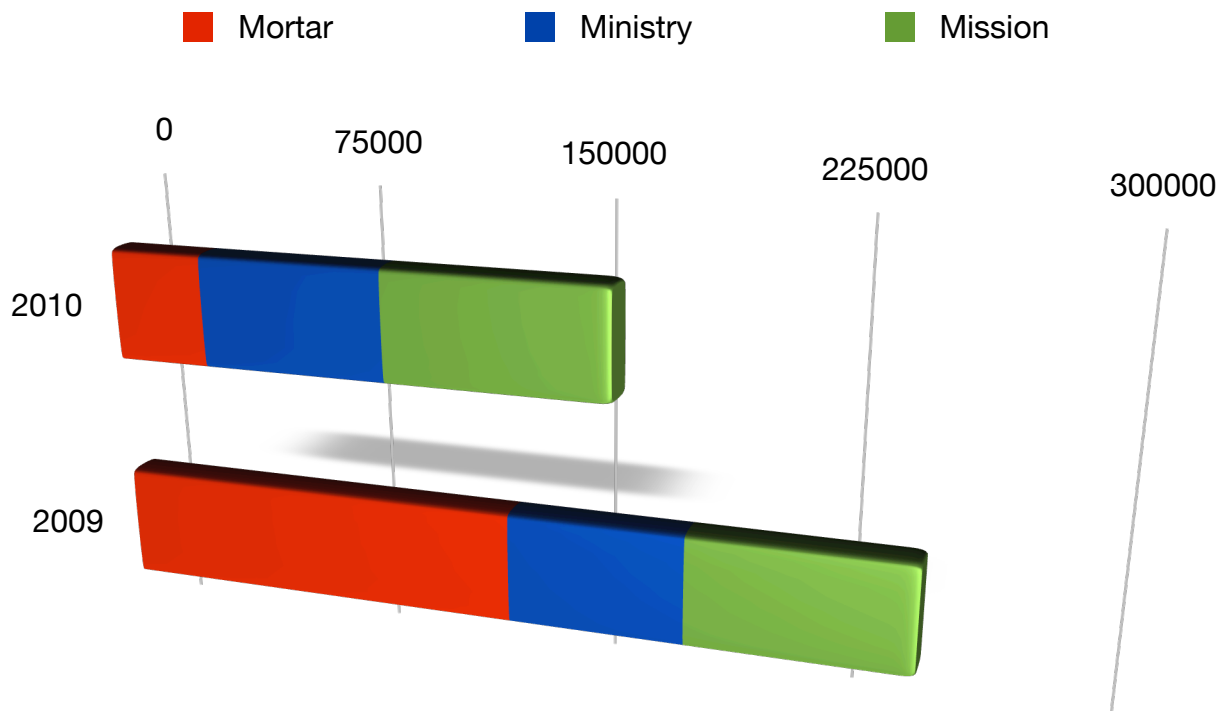


Living Waters

Where our gifts go:



Church Giving: Where your gifts go

Mortar	Mission	Ministry
All expenses related to the maintenance and upkeep of our facilities...mortgage, utilities, cleaning, etc....	Gifts and Donations given to fulfill Matthew 25:35 -- feed the hungry, comfort the sick -- international, national, state, and local missions & pastoral support	Worship, Music, Discipleship, Children, Youth, & pastoral support
19% of your gifts will go to Mortar	44% of your gifts will go to Missions	37% of your gifts will go to Ministry



Living Waters

at Centerton a United Methodist Congregation
findfulfillment.org

In a world of rapidly diminishing wealth & resources it's time the "Church" take a serious examination of how its wealth & resources are allocated. It's time for the Church's giving to reflect the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and it's time the Church hold itself accountable to the gifts and blessings given to it. The gifts that we each give go to three areas: "Mortar," "Mission," and "Ministry." We should, in prayer and contemplation, always examine how a community of faith allocates its resources. It is traditional for pastors to focus stewardship & giving on the individual, but in this community of faith we want stewardship and giving to also focus on the church; as a church -- a community of Christian believers -- we each have the sacred responsibility to see that the church's budget and resources are used in truthful ways. Oh yes, we have a sacred responsibility as followers of Christ to give a portion of what we earn (or what God has blessed us with) to give to the community so that the Kingdom of God may come to all the world. The mission and ministry of the church is only limited by what we do not give. Instead of the preacher "shaking you down" to fulfill this year's budget, ask in prayer what you think you will give.

"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.'" 2 Corinthians 9:7

"Living Waters" will dedicate more and more of your gifts to "Mission" & "Ministry." Yes, we meet in a building and have upkeep costs, but the "Mortar" portion of a budget should not eclipse missions and ministries - in fact, when "Mortar" is continually the largest portion of the budget, churches need to consider just how "alive" they really are (and perhaps they should look at Numbers 9:17-18's emphasis on the tent of meeting and flexibility of worship - a church need not be defined by the building it inhabits). In 2009, with the merger of two churches, we used a large portion of our resources to update the building and purchase the annex at 293 North Main. In 2010 we seek to bring the "Mortar" back down to where it needs to be in relation to "Missions" & "Ministries." We closed 2009 with \$22,805.70 in our accounts. United Methodist Churches in Arkansas sent us \$67,000 to help. In 2010 our "Missions," "Ministries," and "Mortar" will total \$160,000. We are praying for a 22% increase in giving over last year, and we seek to recommit to our original aim to donate 10% of all church offerings to help establish and run the Food Pantry for Centerton (maybe we'll call the ministry 'Aqua Vida'). If you would like a detailed budget and giving report please email request to 'blakelasater@msn.com' or jkandrews@cox.net...or call the pastor at 479.426.2547.

Prayers, Presence, Service, & Witness

And let's not forget about those four other areas of giving...we would not be who we are this day without your continued prayers for our church, and I personally would like to thank each of you for your prayers concerning Jan -- our family will never forget your love. Our average attendance in 2009 was 135, a slight increase over 2008. Thank you to all who make our Children, Youth, Adult, Hospitality, Evangelism/Marketing, and Missions Ministries possible; without your service all of these areas would not be possible. And for sharing with others what this church means to your lives, and what God's love has done to transform your hearts, the people who are touched by this witness thank you for your testimony.

Our Prayers, Our Presence, Our Gifts, Our Service, & Our Witness