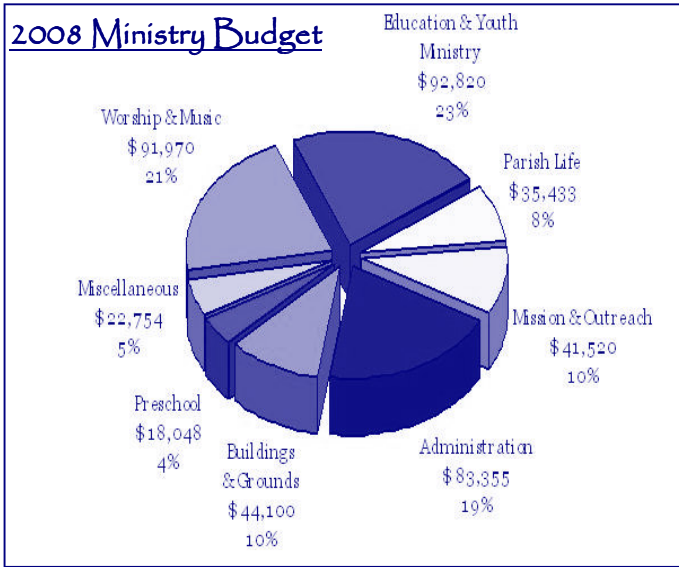


"Let There Be Light" Stewardship Update

THANKS TO EVERYONE who has submitted a pledge to the **Let There Be Light** campaign. The Divine World Series Tournament was not only fun, but it also set us within sights of our goal. A special thanks to Sondra Boone who designed the tournament and to our team captains Kurt Blumthal and Zac Johnson for all their inspiration and hard work.

The results of the tournament had the St. Columba Angels edging out the St. Columba Saints in game three of our series. The drawing for World Series Tickets (for the 2008 series) and airfare courtesy of AirTran Airlines was won by Laura and Tom Dillon!

Our campaign goal of \$365,000 for our ministry budget for 2008, with 150 households participating. At the end of the Divine World Series, we had 94 households returning a pledge for a



total of \$253,000 (70% of our pledge goal, and 62% of our household participation goal). That's a good start, but we need to reach our goal if we are to continue the momentum of the year and with the ministries that make St. Columba such a vibrant parish community.

If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. Pledges are the lifeline of our parish and we depend on each family's support and gifts of time and talent to the mission and ministry of the parish. (Campaign materials, pledge cards, and information are available for download from our parish website: www.saintcolumba.net)

Stewardship campaigns in parishes give us time to pause and reflect on all these blessings and gifts that we receive through our affiliation with St. Columba's. Most likely, it is an overwhelming feeling and an emotional time for most of us. With grateful hearts, we contemplate the manifold good works and ministries of the Church which transform and enrich our lives and our community of faith. All the while, we are mindful that financial support is required for these good works and ministries to continue. With thanks to God for the abundance that He provides, we complete our

pledge card.

This year's stewardship theme, Let Your Light Shine: Generations of Faith, Hope and Abundance, reminds us of what being part of a church is all about. It's been said that without gratitude, you and I cannot be whole people ... we're not to be grateful so that God will give us more, or so he won't take back what he has already given us. God ... is at work, always, to give us everything He can. We are meant to be grateful people, simply to become whole, to be able to recognize that the foundation of life is grace itself. That's what stewardship is all about: wholeness and holiness all rolled into one. And this is the light that is our to shine. God has given us hope through our faith and our faith brings us deeper into God's abundance.

We encourage you to reflect on the blessings that God, working through St. Columba's Church, provides in your lives and, with loving and grateful hearts, make your pledge for to the annual ministry campaign for 2008 and to the capital campaign for 2008-10.

