

# In Touch

An Occasional Newsletter  
from the Stewardship Committee



Seeking the Light

Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, New York

May 2007, Vol. 1, No. 2

## *A Progress Report*

Your Stewardship Committee has pledged to maintain effective communications with the congregation regarding financial matters, and as the first quarter of 2007 has come to a close, it seems a good time to look back, look around and look ahead.

But more than that, we have endeavored to keep the important questions of faith and money in front of all of us—as individuals, families and a congregation. We are often reminded that Jesus spoke about money more than any other topic. If that's the case, perhaps we should too, or if not more than any topic, at least more than we typically do!

Thanks for your consideration, and for your support of the mission and ministry of Third Presbyterian Church.

Faithfully,

*The Stewardship Committee*

## Stewardship as a 365/24/7 Activity

In the book *The Price of Faith*, Marie Cross writes that "faith and money are both part of ordinary living. They must share integrity with the ways in which we choose to live. Faith and money belong together—in the same sentence."

If that's the case, what are some things we can do all year 'round, and not just in stewardship season?

- Consider joining the Stewardship Committee—contact John Wilkinson at the church if you are interested.
- Study—either alone or with others—some of the important scriptural passages about money. What are they saying to you? (Psalm 24:1-6, Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 12:13-21, II Corinthians 8:8-15, II Corinthians 9:6-15).
- Explore some of the autobiographical questions on page 4 of this *In Touch*. (With thanks to Marie Cross).



- Keep the church in your prayers. We are all called to be stewards of the gift of prayer. Pray for our financial integrity, and for those in leadership positions who are asked to make important decisions.
- If you haven't pledged, it's not too late. Perhaps this information will support your decision-making process.

# Third Church Finances:

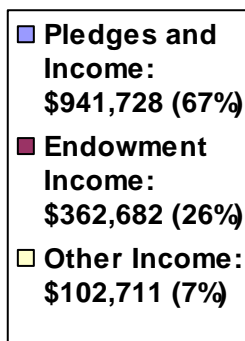
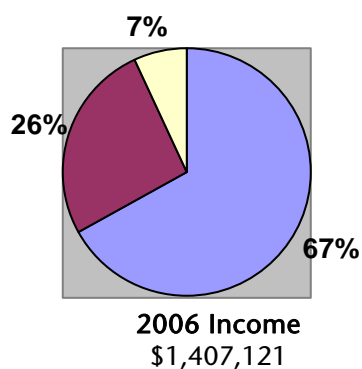


## A Recap of 2006

Church Treasurer Jan Chisholm described the 2006 financial results for us in the Annual Report. Didn't see the Annual Report? Here's a brief summary:

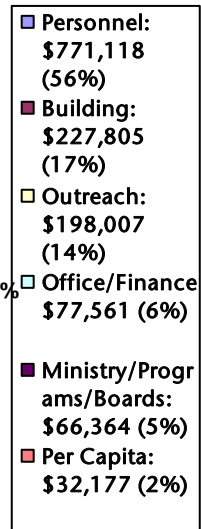
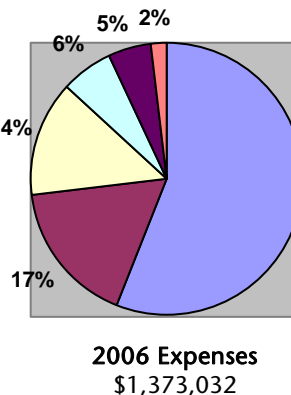
Good news: The year ended with a surplus of income over expenses of \$34,089. How did this happen?

- Total income exceeded the budget by \$19,714.
- Some committee expenses, including Personnel and Building, were under budget, while some other committee expenses were over budget.



- Total expenses

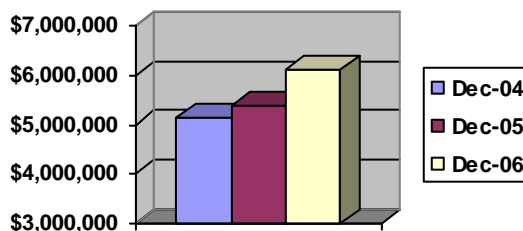
## Income and Expenses 2006



## Other Good News:

The endowment year-end value increased from \$5,400,600 in 2005 to \$6,088,750 in 2006. The overall return was 17.7%, a tribute to excellent management by Rusty Olson.

## Endowment Comparison over the last 3 years



12/31/2004: \$5,126,130  
 12/31/2005: \$5,400,600  
 12/31/2006: \$6,088,750

# Budgeting for 2007

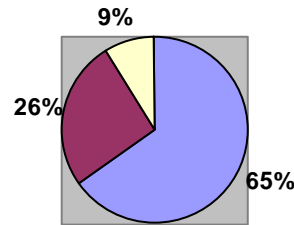
## How We Spend Our Financial Resources

Session voted budget of  
\$1,427,220 for 2007

In February, Session voted a budget of \$1,427,220 for 2007, an increase of 2.9% over the 2006 budget. As in recent years, this amount was derived by estimating our income and allocating that income to our administrative and program expenses in the fairest way possible. Where will the budgeted funds come from?

- 91% will come from pledge payments, contributions, plate offerings and endowment income, with the other 9% coming from miscellaneous items, including a \$34,000 surplus carryover from 2006.

2007 Budgeted Income  
\$1,427,220

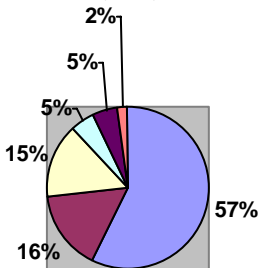


- Pledges and Contributions: \$931,125 (65%)
- Endowment Income: \$373,516 (26%)
- Other Income: \$122,579 (9%)

**"In this society, we not only ask the question what it's worth or what the person is worth, but we often judge ourselves by the values embedded in money."**

*Robert Wood Lynn*

2007 Budgeted Expense  
\$1,427,220



- Personnel: \$481,600 (57%)
- Building: \$238,263 (16%)
- Outreach: \$210,000 (15%)
- Office/Finance: \$65,000 (5%)
- Ministry/Programs/Boards: \$67,700 (5%)
- Per Capita: \$34,657 (2%)

## Some Other Budget Details

- Although the percentage of endowment income withdrawal has been decreased from 7 1/2 to 7 1/4%, the increase in endowment value has made it possible to budget an extra \$11,000 for 2007. This underscores the important role that our endowment plays in the financial status of the church.
- Personnel expense is up 3 1/2%, including increases in salary and benefits.
- Personnel and Outreach account for 94% of the total expense budget increase.
- Building expenses are slightly decreased, based on projected utility costs.

**"When we see some of our ordinary activities as Christian practices, we come to perceive how our daily lives are all tangled up with the things God is doing in the world."**

*Dorothy C. Bass*

## Points to consider:

- \$895,000 pledge income has been budgeted for 2007, the same amount as in 2006.
- Pledges still needed as of April 30 to reach this amount: \$3,000. It's not too late to pledge!



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## Looking toward the Future.

Several years ago, the Joint Budget and Finance Committee began working with a 5-year forecast. This forecast has been updated through 2011. Even though our membership is growing slightly, in recent years we've experienced a decrease in the number of pledges, because we have lost more pledges through death, relocation and other causes than we have gained in new pledges. In 2007, we gained 39 and lost 47.

In recent years, the annual increase in the average pledge has been 5%, or higher. However, the increase for 2007 was 0.6%, an aberration, we hope. If we project a continuing loss in number of pledges similar to what occurred from '06 to '07, and look for a 5% increase in the average pledge and a 3% increase in expenses, the forecast shows a potential deficit in 2011 of \$25,500! The importance of pledge income is so strong in our forecast that if we assume no loss in number of pledges and just a 4% increase in average pledge, the projected deficit in 2011 changes to a surplus of \$1,000.

**Therefore, Stewardship goals in the future will include intense efforts to increase the number of new pledges, whether from new members or existing members who previously did not pledge. Also, as expenses increase, a modest increase in the average pledge will be necessary to balance the budget.**

Over the next several weeks and months, you will hear a great deal more—and be invited to support—a major campaign to address significant facilities needs and other important program opportunities. Watch your mail. We hope that not only will we be able to meet our campaign goals, but that this effort will also benefit our annual giving, by connecting more broadly with the congregation and sharing our needs in a more personal way. Stay tuned...

A Money Autobiography, adapted from Marie Cross *The Price of Faith*

While taking your morning walk, driving to work or sitting around the family table, share these questions and reflect on their responses.

### **CHILDHOOD**

- How did you perceive money in your family?
- Did you ever receive money as a gift? From whom? What did you do with it?
- Did you receive an allowance? How did you earn it. How did you spend it?

### **TEENAGE**

- What do you remember about your first job? What happened to that money?

### **PRESENT**

- How does money function in your life right now?
- How do you connect a person's value with what they own or what they earn?
- What are your giving habits? Civic groups? Schools? The arts? Third Church?
- How do you react to the linkage between faith and money?