

In Touch

An Occasional Newsletter
from the Stewardship Committee



Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, New York

November 2005, Vol. 1, No. 3

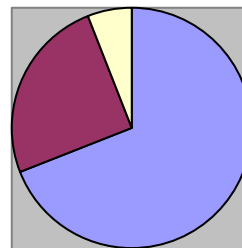
2006 Vision

- An increase to 100% pledging participation of all member households -- this would make a significant difference in our ability to achieve our 2006 estimated income. If you have not pledged in prior years, might this be the year?
- An overall 8% increase in pledged giving -- thank you to those who have pledged in the past, and for your faithful consideration of our 2006 needs.
- A 1/4% reduction of the draw on our endowment, from 7 3/4% to 7 1/2%.
- The ability to meet our appropriate expense increases while maintaining our outreach, mission and ministry commitments

Stewardship Sunday is November 13. Please prayerfully consider your response and bring your pledge card to worship on November 13. If you are not able to be present on that day, you may send your pledge card to the church office. Thank you for your faithful response.

Estimated 2006 Pledge Income

Total Estimated Income: \$1,406,200*

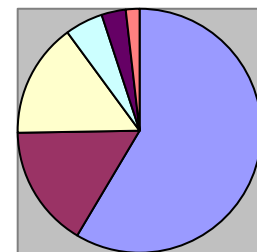


*a 1.5% increase over 2005

■ Pledges and Contributions	\$970,500	69%
■ Endowment Income	\$358,100	25%
■ Other Income	\$77,600	6%

Estimated 2006 Expenses

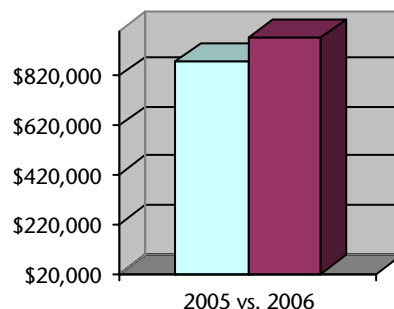
Total: \$1,406,200



■ Personnel	\$816,700	58%
■ Building	\$220,800	16%
■ Outreach	\$217,000	15%
■ Office/Finance	\$71,500	5%
■ Other Mission/Ministry	\$47,999	3%
■ Per Capita	\$32,500	2%

2005 Pledge Total and 2006 Pledge Income (estimated)

Total: \$1,406,200



■ 2005 Pledges (actual)	(\$877,032)
■ 2006 Pledges (estimated)	(\$948,000)

"In Touch" Reflections

...The stewardship theme, "In Touch," seeks to make many **connections**, primarily how we are connected to this old, old story, connected to one another, connected to the mission of this congregation. And further, and more directly tied to our stewardship efforts, why those connections matter and what we are called to do to sustain and strengthen them.

...There are **real-world concerns** that we face, including a day-to-day, month-to-month, year-to-year price tag to operate our building and keep it warm and dry and safe, to pay for things like coffee and bulletins and choir music and Sunday school curriculum, to compensate our staff in a way that we hope is commensurate with their gifts and commitments.

...Building costs are rising. That should not be a surprise to any of you. Parts of this facility are more than 100 years old, and we find ourselves year to year unable to do all that we need to do, not only to maintain but to move ahead.

...And personnel costs, by far our largest budgetary commitment, are rising as well. That should not be a surprise either. We face several challenges here, and allow me to be as direct as I can *without overstating it*. We seek to maintain and enhance our current commitments to the people who work here, to pro-

vide compensation that is adequate, and more than adequate, actually, to the gifts they bring, the commitments they share, and our expectations for excellence in leadership that has distinguished this congregation in the past and will do so into the future.

...If you have pledged in the past, *thank you*. If you can pledge as you are invited to do so, please do it, and stretch yourselves as you can. If you haven't pledged ever, or recently, I would urge you to do that as well. *Make this the year!* Whatever the level!

...We spend considerable time thinking about these things. My simple invitation this morning is this: **as you are connected, as you are in touch with the ministry of this place, respond**. And not out of guilt, but out of commitment and out of hope, and gratitude for being connected to this story of salvation and hope, and being in touch with this community as a venue for acting this story out.

(Excerpts from a sermon by John Wilkinson on October 16, the first part of a two-part "In Touch" stewardship series. Complete copies of the sermon are available at the church or at www.thirdpresbyterian.org. "In Touch, II" will be the title of the November 13 sermon when pledge cards are received during worship.)

A Word from the Children of the Church

Becky D'Angelo-Veitch shared this episode from a recent Sunday school class, taught by Amanda Gianniny. It is a skit prepared and performed by fifth and sixth grade children:

- ◆ Zach (*placing a hat into a bag with the church drawn onto it*): "donating warm clothes for the homeless, \$5."
- ◆ Drew: (*putting in a pencil, pen and small piece of paper*): "School supplies for the Katrina Victims, \$2."
- ◆ Morgan (*putting in dice from a board game*): "Supplies for board games for family night, \$15."
- ◆ Drew (*putting in an old friendship bracelet*): "Making friends at church, priceless."
- ◆ Matthew: "There are some things money CAN buy, for everything else, there's church."

For everything else, there's church.

WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

Per capita is an apportionment made by the Presbytery of Genesee Valley that each church, including Third Church, is asked to contribute for every member. The per capita for 2006 will be \$23.00. This year, the Stewardship Committee is inviting every member to contribute \$23.00 in addition to their 2006 pledge to help meet our per capita apportionment, which will be approximately \$32,177.

For this past year, 223 members and households pledged a total of \$7,769 to offset our per capita apportionment. We have thus far received \$5,370 toward that pledge. We hope that many more will make the same commitment in 2006. Please indicate your willingness on the pledge card. Thank you.