In Touch

An Occasional Newsletter
from the Stewardship Committee

Third Presbyterian Church

Seeking the Light

Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, New York

October 2010 Vol. 1, No. 1

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Stewardship 2011

"Home" is a simple word, rich and evocative yet elusive to define. Knowing your home is an awareness of the spirit, not geography. It isn't always where you grew up, and it is more than where you have lived. It is a matter of the senses, of feelings, of intuition. It feels right. It is the smell in the air, the lay of the land, relying on a "sixth sense." Lemony Snicket (an author of children's books) tells us it is both tangible and fleeting…

> *One's home is like a delicious piece of pie you order in a restaurant on a country road one cozy evening - the best piece of pie you have ever eaten in your life - and can never find again.*

While pie and church finances are not an instantly obvious connection, the thread is what our home needs. Our homes need a presence of the divine and of daily resources, both of which sustain our faith.

PREACHING DURING THE STEWARDSHIP SEASON

October 24: "Coming Home to Humility" (Luke 18:9-14)
October 31: "Coming Home to Possibility" (Luke 18:18-30)
November 7: "Coming Home to Generosity" (Luke 19:1-10)

Our Programs Build Homes

For the past two years our stewardship voyage has been on the Steward Ship during a time of rough seas, but we were able to show the destinations of our voyage and what it takes to run the ship. As a result, the congregation responded very generously in uncertain times.

As this voyage ends, after we have been away from our home during renovations, we are "Coming Home." This is more than simply moving from temporary to permanent quarters, because our many programs focus on making homes for people.

Katrina efforts support rebuilding homes in New Orleans

Our meal and housing programs support homes for people in need in our community

The education programs at The Corner Place, School 35 and School 6 help build strong children and families in city neighborhoods

Our More Light initiatives create a welcoming home for all

Our Earth Keepers work to ensure a safe and healthy planet as our home

Our music programs fill our house with richly moving experiences.

Peacemaking, World Mission and Amnesty programs seek to foster tolerance and understanding in our world home

Our support for Habitat for Humanity helps build homes for people throughout Rochester neighborhoods

Our Home's Finances

The church's pledging income has been dropping in recent years, and there were painful staffing cuts in 2009 and 2010. If the present trends continue, there will be a $60,000 budget gap for 2011 that will have to be taken out of the programs listed on the previous page.

A simple explanation for the decline is the smaller number of "traditional" long-term givers who provided a large portion of the church's pledge income. Our home is becoming more filled by modern (younger) givers who march to a different financial drumbeat—both by necessity and by preference.

While the demographic changes are clear, the reasons why we are dwindling in pledges is elusive and, like the meaning of the word home, hard to define.

To help understand this trend better, this year's campaign will include several steps that will help us define what it means to have a church "home" at Third Presbyterian Church. We will be making contact with people who have not given to the church in recent years to see if we are still their home, and if they can contribute to keeping their home what it has been. Is there a prodigal son pattern, waiting for a return? Or is it simply expecting others to pick up the tab?

We will also be making an appeal for people to give in the ways that take us back to a time when a pledge to the church was a commitment to our spiritual home. Perhaps there are too many choices today, and home is merely where the hat is; is the church just one of many coat hooks in our lives, used and then forgotten? Or taken for granted? Is the faith that brought us to Third Church seen as free of obligation?

The budget summary at the end of this newsletter shows how we get our income and how we spend it. It shows (1) a $22,000 decrease in endowment earnings due to the loss in investments' value in recent years, (2) modest personnel cost increases, and (3) program costs at the same level as 2010. To reach this budget we need pledge income that is $35,000 higher than we expect to receive this year. To be honest, it is a "stretch" goal, and will rely on the faithful generosity of all current pledgers, as well as the addition of dozens of new pledges if we are to avoid reducing our programs in 2011.

Congregational Forum—October 24

Join us after worship on Sunday, October 24 at Incarnate Word for a congregational forum on stewardship.

Adult Faith Development "Faith and Money Series"

October 10: The Third Church Endowments and Investment Approaches
October 17: The State of Stewardship
October 24: Trends in Endowments and Giving in American Culture
October 31: Wills and Other Planned Giving Opportunities
Adult Faith Development programs take place in the Bausch Lounge at the Rochester Museum and Science Center.

Stewardship Sunday is November 7

During October you will receive your pledge cards and additional information about the "Coming Home" campaign and the Church's financial needs for 2011 and beyond.

Please bring your completed pledge cards to church where we will present them during worship. If you are unable to be in worship on November 7, you may mail your pledge cards to the church office, or submit a confidential pledge to Carol Foster at cfoster@thirdpresbyterian.org.

Please faithfully consider your pledge for the coming year and plan to give as generously as you can.

Yours in faith from the Stewardship Committee

Timothy Broshears, Bill and Carol Coons, Susan Locke, Susan Melech, Rodney Perry

INCOME	Preliminary 2011	Budget 2010
Pledges & Contributions	$945,100	$858,950
Endowment Income	$339,500	$361,271
Interest & Trust Income	$16,500	$19,100
Rent: Day Care & 34 Meigs	$32,800	$32,820
Fund Raising , Gifts & Grants	$15,000	$17,200
Miscellaneous Income	$4,000	$2,000
Fund Transfers	$0	$13,000
Balance from previous year	$0	$31,744
Total	$1,352,900	$1,336,085
EXPENSE		
Staff: Ministry, Building, Finance	$808,400	$792,500
Outreach—PC (U.S.A.)	$91,300	$91,300
Outreach-Programs	$108,100	$108,100
Worship, Music & Arts	$34,450	$34,450
Faith Development	$15,900	$15,900
Boards & Committees	$5,550	$5,550
Office & Finance	$66,900	$66,900
Membership/Fellowship	$5,900	$5,900
Building Maintenance & Utilities	$182,000	$182,100
Support to Presbytery (per capita)	$34,400	$33,385
Total	**$1,352,900**	**$1,336,085**
Pledge Goal	**$925,000**	**$890,000**

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