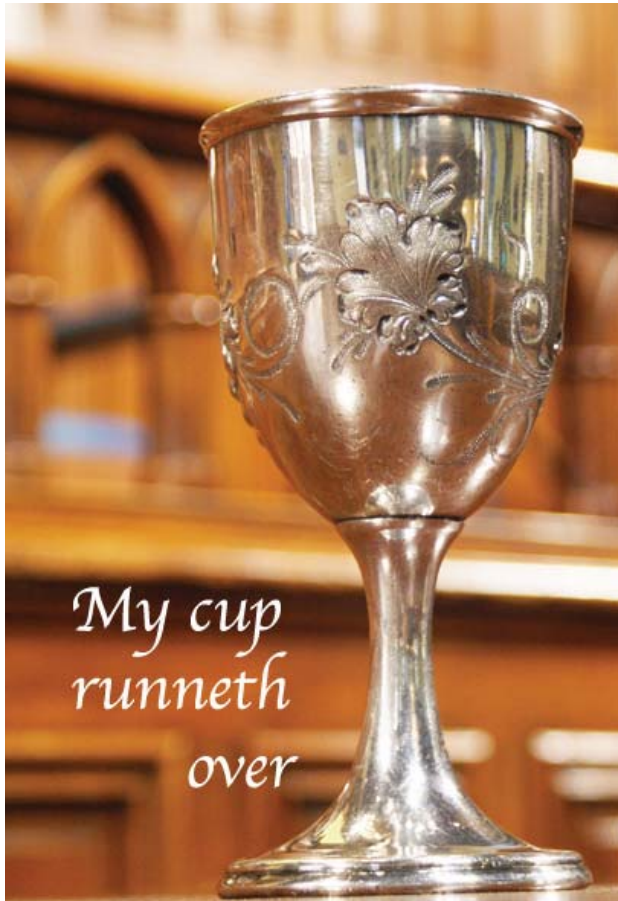


S T E W A R D S H I P

First Presbyterian Church Charlotte, North Carolina



*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; **my cup runneth over.** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

(Psalm 23)

The theme for the 2009 Stewardship Campaign, My Cup Runneth Over, has a double meaning. We are blessed as individuals and as a congregation in many, many ways. By harnessing our collective gifts, talents and resources First Presbyterian Church is able to serve as a place of refuge and comfort to our congregation and our community.

The second meaning refers to the fact that today our church's cup over runs with the needs of our community, our neighbors and our congregation. These are challenging times, and it is in times like this that First Presbyterian can serve as a bastion of hope, love and comfort.

You might have noticed that this brochure is less glossy and colorful than last year. That is purposeful, and consistent with the financial discipline and environmental consciousness being practiced at First Presbyterian. The complete brochure, along with a wealth of information, can be found online at www.firstpres-charlotte.org.

The Stewardship Committee is asking for a 4 percent increase this year. The following pages outline the ways that our church utilizes your stewardship gifts.



2009 Stewardship Campaign

The Stewardship Committee is asking for an increase of 4 percent over last year to raise \$3,375,545 in pledges to support a preliminary operating budget of \$3,594,730 for 2009. The chart on the back cover highlights the major areas of our Stewardship giving.

Key Campaign Dates

September 14

October 12

November 16

Kick-off Sunday

Dedication Sunday

Celebration Sunday

Convenient ways to pledge:

- Return enclosed pledge card.
- Place pledge card in the Offertory Plate before or on Dedication Sunday.
- Pledge online at www.firstpres-charlotte.org.



Pastoral Care & Congregational Life

An integral blessing of being part of the body of Christ is having a community of faith to support you with prayer, visits, calls, meals, transportation and other services when experiencing a difficult time. Some recent and future developments in this area: FPC called a new pastoral care minister in 2008; The Reverend Katherine Cooke is working to ensure that every member of our large congregation feels well-connected and served according to their specific needs.

ChristCare, a small-group ministry identified as a need within the church's long-range plan, was launched in 2008 and has proven to be very successful. The church currently has 15 active groups with 28 leaders. All groups are following a strong curriculum and are establishing their mission outreach programs.

Funds previously allotted to fund the parish nurse have been reallocated to other ministries including ChristCare. The Health Ministry Committee and a wide array of healthcare professionals in the church have stepped forward to cover the parish nurse functions. Additionally, 12 new first aid kits and two defibrillators were ordered to keep congregants safe at FPC.

The Special Needs Committee's goal this year is to focus on making sure that all children receive full access to the worship, education and fellowship programs at FPC.

The Reverend Katherine Cooke and The Reverend Wes Barry collaborated this summer to present "Transitions," a program to offer fellowship, networking, and support for those people experiencing any type of life transition. The keynote speaker was church member and Elder Amy Brinkley.

The Reverend Katherine Cooke, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care and Congregational Life, kcooke@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0250

Service & Missions



FPC's Community Service Committee reviews grant requests, performs site visits and ensures that every contribution meets the church's vision to support hunger, children and family ministries, or ministries to impact and prevent homelessness. The committee



provides its members with ongoing education to better understand the community's needs. This year, members have participated in a poverty simulation, a poverty/homelessness tour and hosted speakers from various Charlotte-Mecklenburg agencies.

The church welcomes the recent addition of Jessica Patchett-Anderson, Child & Family Outreach Coordinator. She hopes to strengthen the church's presence of love and support to those who struggle with poverty, injustice and neglect.

FPC continues to serve Christ in the heart of Charlotte and throughout the rest of the world through recent mission trips. In 2008, 49 youth attended the Mexico Mission Trip and 10 adults traveled to Ryzan, Russia.

In response to Superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg School's Dr. Peter Gorman's plea to the faith community, our church re-committed its energy and prayers to our partnership with Westerly Hills Elementary School. This partnership is a wonderful example of how a faith community can respond to children facing overwhelming obstacles in an effort to provide an equal education to all of Charlotte-Mecklenburg's children. Many of the children who attend Freedom School, Camp Grier and other FPC programs also attend Westerly Hills.

*The Reverend Katie Crowe, Associate Minister for Service and Missions,
kcrowe@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0253*

Membership



In 2007, First Presbyterian welcomed 114 new members and 52 families. We celebrated 34 births and 55 baptisms. There are currently 2,181 members which does not include children not yet confirmed. We budget to serve an ever-growing membership of more than 3,000 people.

Our largest demographic sector continues to be 20 to 40 year olds. In 2007, 42 percent of new members were in this age group. Our second largest group of new members in 2007, at 11 percent, was members over 60. Our membership dollars go to mailings, visitor information, preparation for classes and new member events.

Susan Daniel, Membership Coordinator, sdaniel@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0241



Adult Christian Education

Your Stewardship supports the numerous adult Christian Education activities and offerings of the Church, including:

Adult Sunday School classes, operating under the theme “Finding Your Way,” will offer several new options in 2008 in addition to last year’s choices of Voyager, Open Forum, Frances Browne, Cornerstone and Chapel Bible.

A new series, “Seeing the Faith,” will bring all Sunday School classes together once a month to examine eight central New Testament events through the medium of great works of art. Church members Mary Edith Alexander and Amy Gray will lead this innovative class.

“Emmaus,” a conversational class centered on questions of the faith, will be led by The Reverend Katherine Cooke. Additionally, the Explorer’s class will reconvene with a look at God’s covenantal promises and how they relate to our lives.

Wednesday Connect, which drew an average of 180 participants per week last year, will offer several new classes this fall.

Dr Jim Miller will teach a six-week core curriculum series this fall to train a team of church teachers in Bible, History, Theology, and Teaching Methods. Graduates of this program will receive the FPC Certified Teacher Award.

The Kairos Bible Study, which drew about 50 members last year, will be led again this fall by Dr. Jim Miller. The Men and Women’s Bible Studies will also continue to encourage congregants to explore the Scriptures on a deeper level.

*The Reverend Dr. Jim Miller, Associate Minister for Christian Education,
jmiller@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0260*



Children's Ministries

First Presbyterian’s Children’s Ministries offers Sunday school classes and programs, all supported by your gifts of time, money and talent. Recent events have made programs even more exciting: Vacation Bible School attracted a record number of participants this year including 156 children and 60 parent volunteers. Rainforest Adventure’s environmental theme, caring for God’s creation, was well-received by children of all ages.

The first annual Promotion Sunday was held in June with more than 300 people in attendance. Children ages 5 years to 8th grade moved up to their next grade level classrooms. Holding this event in the late spring rather than in August should make the return to Sunday School feel less chaotic for children and their parents.

The Children’s Ministries will kick off the school year with a new event, Family Fellowship Night, a special evening of games, inflatable equipment, food and live music. The Family Christmas Eve Service will take place again this year at 5 p.m. Last year, more than 800 people attended, making it the largest worship service of the year at FPC. The service offers families a chance to worship together in celebration of Jesus’ birth in plenty of time for young children to get home for their bedtimes.

(continued on p. 5)

(continued)

Children's Ministries



The CDC and WDS continue to attract families to First Presbyterian Church. Although these programs have their own budgets and financing sources, we support them through direct and indirect subsidies such as the use of our facilities and staff resources.

Lou Johnson, Director of Children's Ministries, ljohnson@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0265
Janis Rikard, Director of the WDS, jrikard@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.376.8683
Marti Shope, Director of the CDC, mshope@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.376.8302

Youth Ministries



First Presbyterian welcomes Josh Herrin as the Director of Senior High Ministries. Josh is a Charlotte-area native, growing up in Monroe. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Management at North Carolina State University. Josh also met his wife, Mandy, at NC State. Josh felt the call to ministry while he and Mandy volunteered as youth leaders at Benton Heights Presbyterian in Monroe, Josh's home church. While working full time in the landscaping industry, and part time at Benton Heights as Youth Director, and beginning a family, Josh earned a Masters in Christian Education at Union Theological-Presbyterian School of Christian Education. Josh and Mandy have two sons, A.J., 4, and Alex, 1.

Josh joins Jen Evans, Director of Middle School Ministries. Josh and Jen are both strong leaders for our youth and have already begun making plans for an exciting 2008-2009 PYC year.

Updates to current youth space will make it more accessible, attractive and useful. Improvements include new paint, a small stage and new bleacher-like seating that will allow larger group gatherings in the current Red Room. The new Youth area will feature a kitchen with an island, seating and a soft drink machine. Other amenities include a donated billiards table, sectional sofa seating, "funky" new lighting and brightly-covered plush chairs for the youth to enjoy as they learn to intersect life and faith. Look for improvements to the Youth Wing hallways, which will feature a rotating gallery of art that features Bible verses as well as photos from the Presbyterian Women's cookbook. These renovations will also benefit other ministries of the church such as Boy Scouts, Family Promise and Room in the Inn that utilize the same areas.

Outreach programs funded by the church include: Confirmation, service retreat weekend, a fellowship/gathering overnigher, prayer partner events, Sunday night fellowship, supplies for monthly service projects, Youth Sunday evening dinners, lay leadership training seminars and other opportunities, curriculum and resource books, small group activities and youth leadership opportunities, and an annual Confirmation luncheon for confirmands and their families.

The youth programs are moving to a better teacher training model. Teachers will alternate between attending the National Youth Workers Convention and local training events.

In 2009, youth -- both the middle school and high school programs -- will be offered a chance to attend a mission trip in the United States, with a return trip to Mexico planned for high school youth in 2010.

Josh Herrin, Director of High School Ministries, jherrin@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0236
Jen Evans, Director of Middle School Ministries, jevans@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0282



Music & Worship

Recently, FPC made the 11 a.m. service available online as a podcast. FPC also offers a fourth worship service, Crossroads, on Sundays at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Crossroads offers a relaxed environment where people experience genuine community, authentic worship and a heart for mission.

The Ivey Handbell Ringers recently returned home from ten days in Florida and Georgia. Ten high schoolers participated under the direction of Becky Puster.

In 2008, FPC enjoyed many special music events like the Cornerstone Chorale, “Messiah-Part II” presented by the choir and members of the Charlotte Symphony, and “Life of the Party-Mary and Martha”—a musical performed by our elementary aged choir members at the conclusion of Wednesday Connect.

A search committee is continuing to actively seek a Director of Music Ministries.

Dr. William P. Wood, Senior Minister, wpwood@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0275

Becky Puster, Acting Director of Music Ministries, bpuster@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0251

Matt Dawson, Crossroads Music Director, mdawson@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0267

Dr. Greg Thompson, Organist



Food Service

George Hamilton is our Food Service Manager and earned his Associate’s Degree in Culinary Arts from Johnson & Wales University. George worked at First Presbyterian in 2006 before he moved to Gulfport, Miss. where he participated in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

“Healthy Bodies, Healthy Spirits, Healthy Communities”

First Presbyterian Church provides thousands of meals each year for congregational events, Child Development Center children, lunch after Wednesday worship service, dinner on Wednesday evenings, and many special event meals such as Freedom School and Camp Grier and Room in the Inn. The Food Service Committee’s goal is to ensure that food quality and special events support are a positive aspect of every event at First Presbyterian Church. The cost of our food service ministry (excluding personnel) is offset by charging a modest price for most meals. First Presbyterian Church is trying to improve the reservation process for food-related events, seeing a direct correlation between food quality, planning and stewardship. This summer, the committee surveyed the congregation -- as well as other large churches -- to learn more about how to improve dining experiences and manage special events as the church grows.

George Hamilton, Food Service Manager, ghamilton@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0227

Monica McGuire, Assistant Food Service Manager, mmcguire@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0227

Evangelism



First Presbyterian Church welcomed Wesley Barry as Associate Minister for Evangelism and Young Adults in 2007. Wes graduated from Davidson College in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion. Most recently, he completed his Master of Divinity studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, and was called to First Presbyterian. Between undergraduate and graduate school, Wes spent several years in Charlotte serving as a Young Life church partner at Providence Presbyterian. He was ordained in December 2007. Wes, who grew up in Atlanta, returned to Charlotte with his wife, Lindsay, and their daughter, Eleanor Grace.

While evangelism is strong within the walls of First Presbyterian Church, we reach far beyond to serve others. Christ's command in the Great Commissioning of Matthew 28 is for the church "to go." Wes is a strong leader in serving the burgeoning uptown population as First Presbyterian seeks to reach out to the young professionals and residents moving into our community. We are finding creative ways for First Presbyterian to stretch beyond its walls and meet people where they live, work and play. Crossroads is a unique worship experience that engages contemporary music, movies and imagery in order to show the connection between our daily lives and our faith. This Sunday evening service provides another entry point for young adults and families to worship God at First Presbyterian. Being surrounded by corporate centers, condos and a university, we have the opportunity and the challenge to meet the needs of a generation that desires different venues to worship God. In addition to Crossroads, we are reaching young adults through events such as the Concert on the Lawn, Untapped Theology, Men's Morning Breakfasts and Young Adult gatherings.

The Reverend Wesley Barry, Associate Minister for Evangelism and Young Adults, wbarry@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0240

Administration



FPC has taken on new efforts to practice environmental stewardship and is well-known in the community for "being green." The church recycles, uses "green certified" cleaning and paper products, doormats to trap debris which cuts down on harsh floor cleaning chemicals, non-disposable food utensils in the CDC and Wednesday Worship lunch, ink and toner cartridge recycling, 'lights out' policies and a new can crusher/trash compactor.

FPC also welcomes Ben Treece, Technical Production Coordinator, a new position funded by the TV Ministry. Ben's primary duties are to ensure everything is ready on Sunday mornings and to coordinate the sound and video for Sunday mornings' live telecasts. He also converts the church's 11 a.m. worship service from DVD format to the Web site.

FirstNEWS is also going "green." *FirstNEWS* costs \$57,000 annually to compile and mail to 1200 households. Members can sign up at www.firstpres-charlotte.org to receive it via e-mail. The church will plant a tree on the property once 600 households sign up to receive it electronically.

The church has a new Information Technology Committee looking for opportunities to maximize the use of our Web site and available technology to minimize church expenditures. Look for more to come from this committee.

Dan Woodall, Business Administrator, dwoodall@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0244
Linda Caskey, Finance Manager, lcaskey@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0235



Property

First Presbyterian Church members regularly hear visitors exclaim, “What a beautiful place to worship!” It is the Property Department’s job to maintain that beauty and to make sure that our beautiful church is functional, safe, secure and well maintained.

Some of the current property projects include:

New carpet in the Sanctuary will be installed by the end of summer 2008. Current carpet was installed in the early 1980s and has exceeded its expected life. A loop pile carpet was selected for acoustical reasons.

The youth space in the Poplar Street Building will be significantly upgraded. This project will use existing square footage to provide a more cohesive space by rearranging the classrooms to bring the middle school youth next to the senior high programs. In addition, the senior high room will be expanded by removing a wall in order to convert an existing storage space into additional youth space. This project will have a tremendous impact on our growing PYC program.

Engagement of a professional consultant to review our existing campus security. This is a routine review but will be comprehensive in nature. This review will be conducted in the fall of 2008.

Four new high-definition cameras will replace outdated television cameras in the Sanctuary, and a fifth camera will be added to allow events in the Fellowship Hall to be recorded. Two of the four current cameras have significant problems and cannot be repaired.

Recently completed a Property Condition Assessment by MACTEC Engineering to monitor the maintenance conditions of our major systems, buildings and parking lot.



Dan Woodall, Business Administrator, dwoodall@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0244

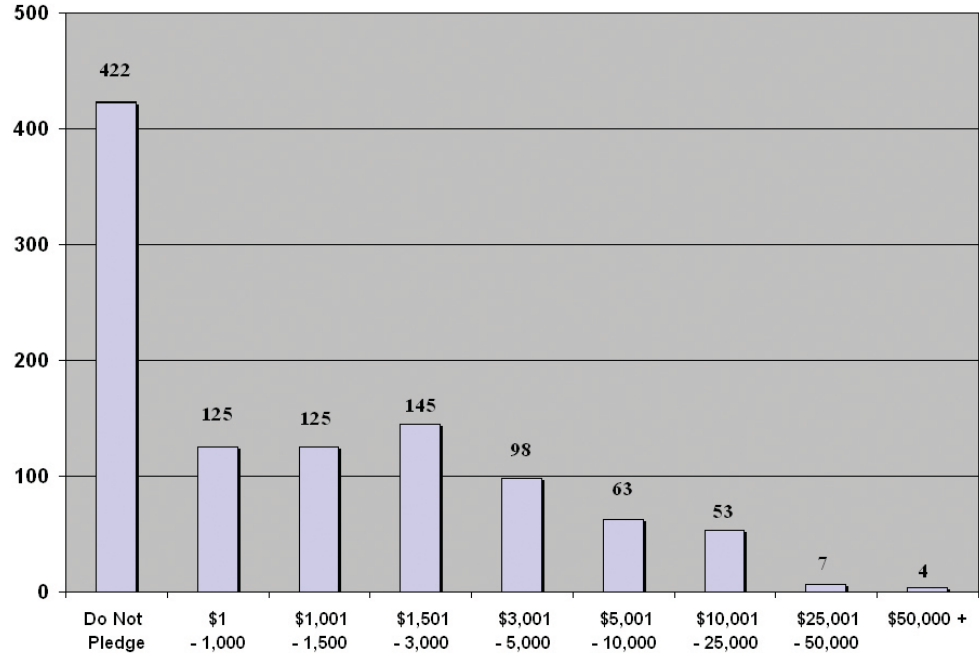
Larry Helms, Property Manager, lhelms@firstpres-charlotte.org or 704.927.0243

Historical Giving



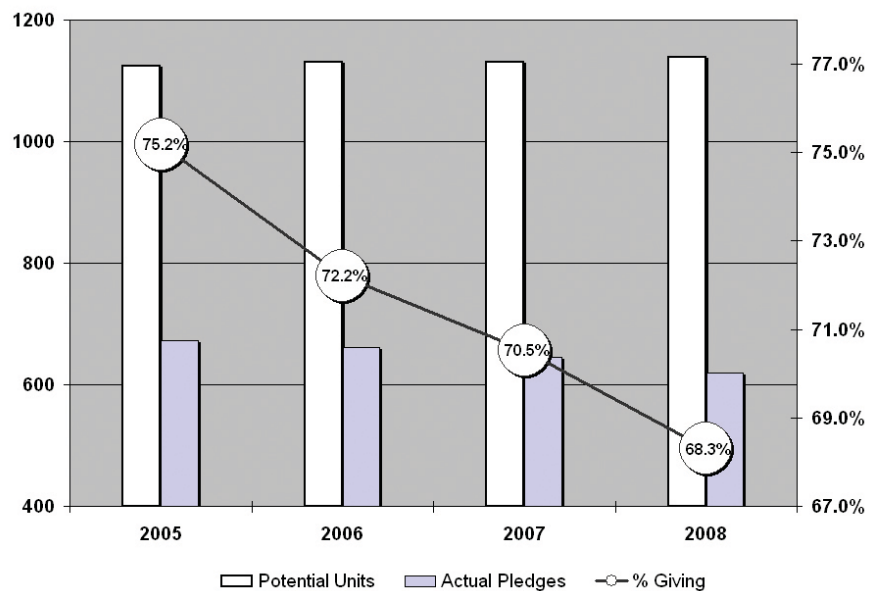
Our members give generously of their time and talent, but our Church needs financial support as well to fund its programs and support our facilities. Formally pledging during the Stewardship campaign provides our Church the opportunity to plan for the most efficient uses of our financial resources and to more effectively leverage our gift of time and talent. Unfortunately, with many mainline churches today, a significant percentage of the congregation does not financially pledge. The chart below highlights giving by the number of pledges for each category for the 2008 Stewardship campaign.

2008 Pledges by Amount



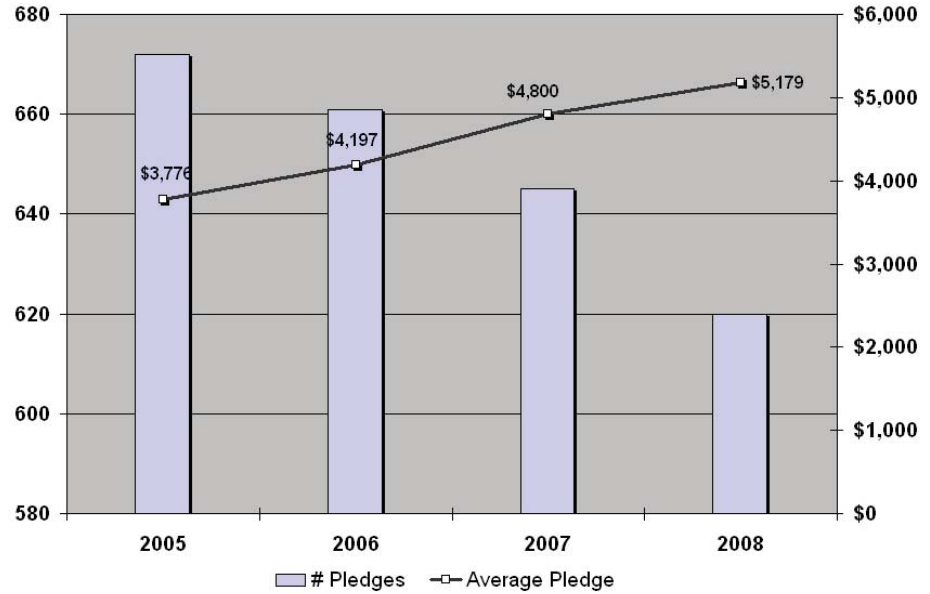
Our membership continues to grow; yet, a smaller percentage of the congregation pledges during Stewardship. The Long Range Plan, as adopted by the Session in 2005, calls for us to work towards a rate that increases every year -- and one that exceeds 75 percent of the congregation making an annual financial pledge. The statistics highlighted in the following charts have significant overall implications for the long term growth and sustainability for our Church and its programs. Every pledge counts.

Congregation Pledging Percentage



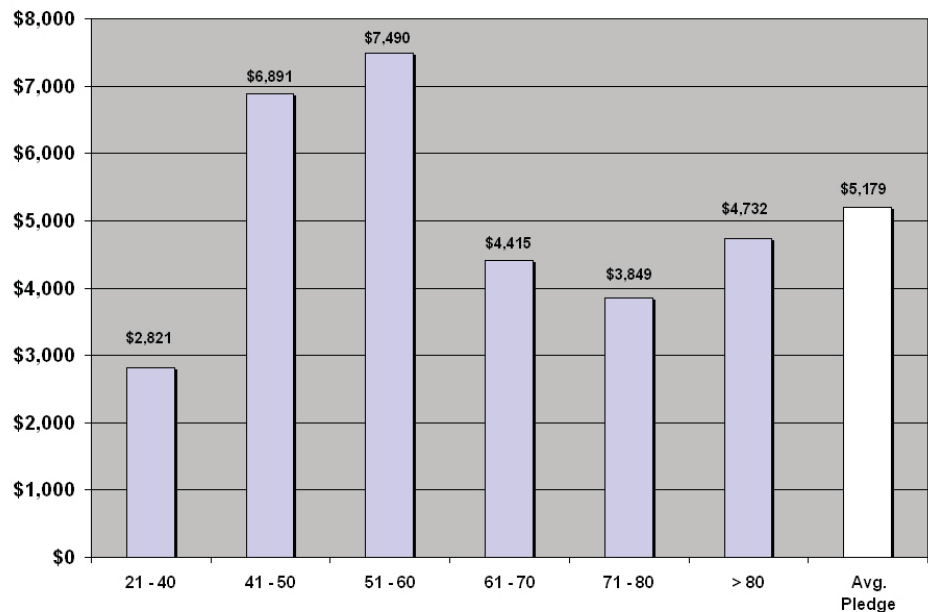
Over the past three years, the average pledge increased by 23 percent while the number of members making a pledge decreased by approximately 6 percent. The following chart highlights this trend.

Average Pledge Amount



Financial support comes from all age groups of the Church, young and old. The 2007 Stewardship campaign marked the first time we separately counted and collected pledges from our youth. Our Church collected 81 pledges from third graders to high school seniors. They submitted their own pledge cards and received traditional offertory envelopes as part of the program. Our hope is to help parents and teachers instill in our youth the meaning of Stewardship. The following chart below breaks out the average pledge by age group (excluding the youth).

Average Pledge by Age



Financial and Budget Report



The general operating budget of our Church, which is summarized below, covers the annual operations related to benevolences, Christian education, congregational care, worship and music, administration, and the physical buildings. Roughly 56% of our operating expenses are associated with personnel, and such salary expenses have been allocated to those corresponding functions. This operating budget does not generally cover expenses related to the CDC, WDS, Television Ministry, and Parking Lot operations, which are maintained separately

We are also blessed through past testamentary and other lifetime gifts to have a substantial endowment, which we refer to as Sessional Funds. Such funds are largely restricted by past donors and our Book of Order. Generally, such funds are not used to fund ongoing operations of the church, but rather are designated for special projects, often associated with specific ministries of the church and/or the building. Use of such funds must be approved by the Session.

Summary Budget Highlights

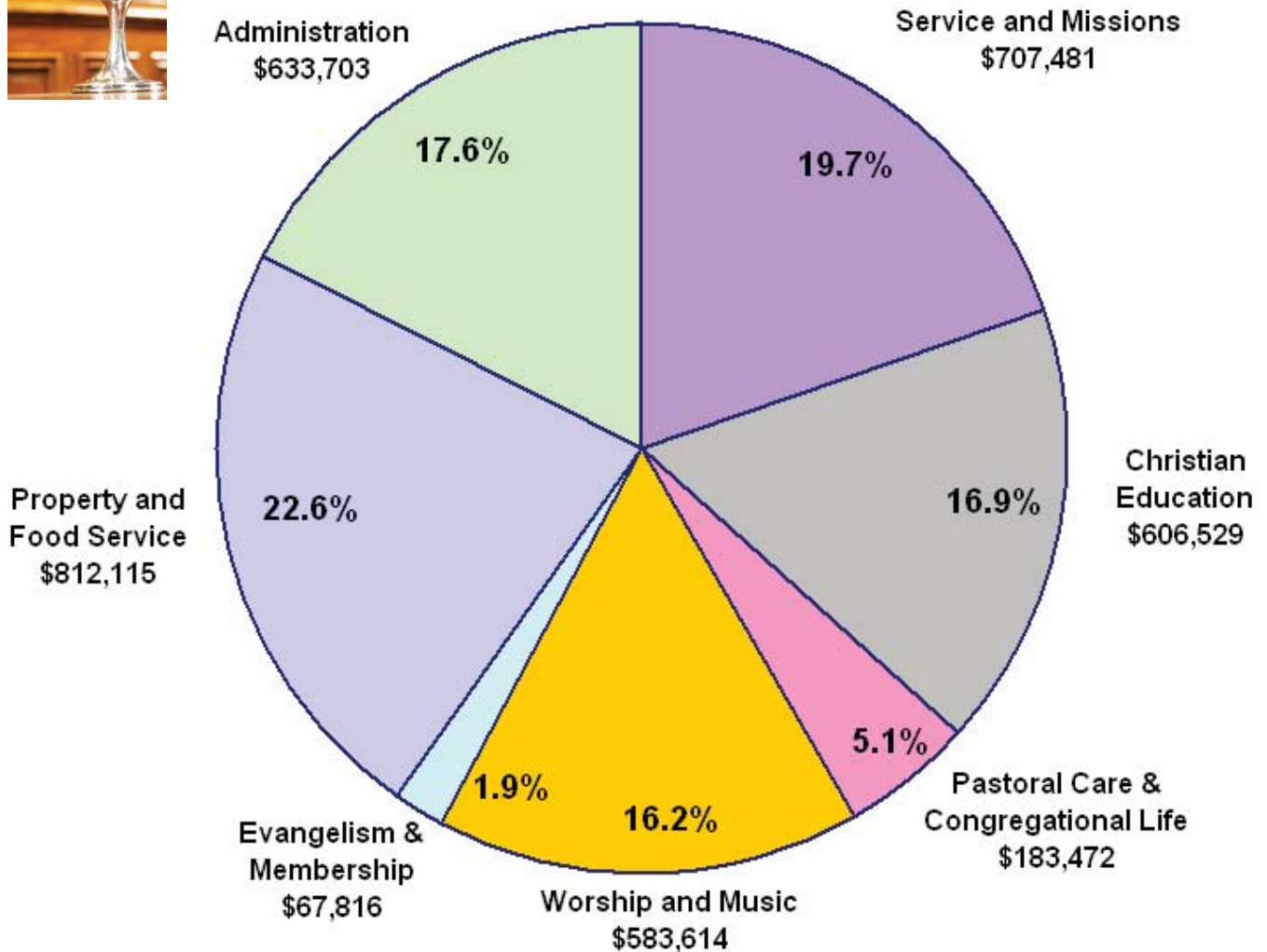
Income	2006	2007	2008	2009 est	09 vs 08
Membership Pledged Giving	\$2,699,979	\$2,982,020	\$3,224,756	\$3,284,279	
Non-Pledged Giving	149,000	144,000	159,000	169,000	
Other	13,897	67,348	81,678	141,451	
Total Income	\$2,862,876	\$3,193,368	\$3,465,434	\$3,594,730	3.7%

Expenses

Service & Missions					
Local	\$368,234	\$404,814	\$439,183	\$476,135	8.4%
Regional/Global	179,749	198,203	213,057	231,346	8.6%
Total Service & Missions	547,983	603,017	652,240	707,481	8.5%
Total Christian Education	444,340	536,325	584,784	606,529	3.7%
Adult & Congregational Care	157,049	168,314	209,223	183,472	-12.3%
Worship and Music	428,685	499,846	575,233	583,614	1.5%
Evangelism & Membership	76,775	79,628	88,182	67,816	-23.1%
Property and Food Service	649,680	710,230	766,765	812,115	5.9%
Administration	558,364	596,008	589,007	633,703	7.6%
Total Expenses	\$2,862,876	\$3,193,368	\$3,465,434	\$3,594,730	3.7%



Stewardship & Operating Budget



2009 Stewardship Committee

Mike McGarry, Chair
 Scott Angel
 Libby Bell
 John Bond
 Bryan Butler
 Reid Campbell
 Lynn Crutchfield
 Bill Hart
 Cornelia Hoover
 Marilyn Huffman
 Richard Mack
 Chip Wasson
 Andy Zoutewelle

2009 Finance Committee

Scott Angel, Chair
 Bill Stevenson, Vice Chair
 Mitch Barnes
 Andy Clark
 Martin Hull
 Mike McGarry
 Chip Wasson

