



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

January 2008

1726 Cedar St., Forest Grove, OR 97116-2434
e-mail: fgumc@teleport.com

Phone: 503-357-2689 FAX: 503-357-8410
website: www.forestgroveumc.org

WESLEYANS MEETING JANUARY 8TH

Because of the New Year's Day holiday, Wesleyans will meet on the *second* Tuesday, **January 8th** at 7 pm. All women are invited to come!

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

The Altar Guild is looking for help. Volunteers serve for one month - longer if you would like. Contact Margaret Hoerber for more information.

A GENEROUS BEQUEST

At their December meeting, the Trustees formally accepted a \$96,000 bequest from the McCue Estate. This is the final disbursement and is in addition to the \$77,000 received early in 2006.

Dwight McCue and his first wife, Eva, were long-time active members of our church. Dwight was a member from 1930 until his death in 1999. He and Eva ran a chicken farm out in the country (now 22nd and Maple, with no trace left of the farm buildings.) The hens laid as many as 2000 eggs each day; Dwight made deliveries to the local bakery, as well as selling eggs (some with double yolks) and chickens to local customers, using the honor system. A very friendly couple, they loved to dance, and often drove in to the Crystal Ballroom in Portland for an evening of dancing. Les and Erma Heisler, among others, could tell you a funny story or two about Dwight and Eva.

This bequest was given following the death of Dwight's second wife, Hazel, in 2005. Hazel was a member of our church since 1986.

Dwight's nephew, the Trustee of the estate, indicated that his uncle wanted this money to be used to establish an endowment fund for building maintenance. We gratefully acknowledge this generous gift.

Barbara Huson, Trustees

WHO'S YOUR SHEPHERD?

The youth never cease to amaze me. Last Sunday, the youth planned and led the worship service for the church. How awesome to see and feel the love of Christ from these youth and to watch as they share that faith with the congregation. I just want to thank each and every youth who participated and showed us that Christ is our shepherd who calls each of us by name. I also want to thank the congregation who give their love and support to the youth and Bobby and me. The reason the youth are able to be creative with the service, and explore what worship is, comes from an accepting and nurturing church family. We are all blessed to have each other.

Also, thank you to all who showed up on Saturday for Breakfast Club and the children's program. We had our largest crowd ever! We want to especially thank Jacquie, Jenny, Alyssa, Carole, Chuck, and Merrill who helped out in the kitchen.

Thanks for a great year and I can't wait to see what 2008 will bring. We love you all and appreciate all the love that Chase gets from this church family.

Emily Tabb

THANK YOU NOTE

The Clayton family wishes to express our heartfelt thanks for the love and honor shown to our wife, mother and grandmother, **Betty Jo Clayton**, during her recent illness. She is now in God's care. We will be eternally grateful for the witness of her faith and trust in God's Grace.

The *Clayton Family*

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

A FRESH START

I don't know about you, but I love it whenever we start a new year. It reminds me that there are always "fresh starts" in life. A time to do something different, or the same thing in a different way. Of course we could do this at any time of the year, but the New Year, which follows on the heels of the hope we claim in the celebration of the birth of Christ, is a propitious time to start anew.

These "fresh start" moments sometimes come unexpectedly and are out of our control. In other situations, the fresh starts are our choice.

A "fresh start moment" happens after or while one goes through bankruptcy or divorce. It happens each morning we get up. It happens whenever you move to a new community, a new school, a new job, a new relationship. It happens when you get married or someone dies. It happens when you recover from normal sicknesses, and each time you open up the recipe book or sit down at the dinner table. It happens whenever you say "I'm sorry." It happened on the cross when Jesus died.

What I have learned about myself after celebrating quite a few new years, is that it is always around this time of year that I do some major cleaning, organizing, and looking for that fresh outlook, that new way of life and living.

I am so thankful for the words of the prophet Isaiah, when he told God's people about this aspect of God: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19, NRSV)

The key to the new thing God is doing in our lives now, is whether we can perceive it as being God's business, not ours.

We are not always called to something new. Sometimes, we're called to "stay the course" and focus more on renewal, rather than the new.

However you may feel urged in these days, may God be with you and bless you abundantly in these days of the New Year and new life.

And remember.... Christmas is not over. We're in the middle of Christmas, those twelve days between December 25th and January 6th. We're still celebrating anew the birth of Jesus.

Merry Christmas to you and those you love.

In gratitude for new beginnings,



Pastor Dan

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

I spent the last half hour scrolling through the many pages of The Messenger for 2007 looking for the many ways this church, corporately and individually, has been in the world over the last 12 months. Let us celebrate these many ways as we turn our hearts and energy to a new year.

- Family Bridge – set up, take down, cooks, hosts and hostesses, overnights, bus drivers, coordinator
- Christmas offering to WESTCO -- \$1917
- Monthly (or more often) load of food items to St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank outlet
- Well over ½ ton of fresh produce to Food Bank from our garden
- Day Camp – dozens of cooks, shepherds, teachers, teens, supporters, pray-ers and others
- Volunteer in Mission -- Lela Baskins to New Orleans – and reporting about it!
- Youth Mission trip to Camp Latgawa – getting it ready for camping season
- Covenant relationship with missionaries Kevin and Carol Seckel – Germany –
- Participants in Mothers Day Walk for Peace
- Learning about Habitat for Humanity – Wesleyans
- Participants in Walk for Habitat fundraiser
- Co-hosting (with St. Bede's) The Climate Project: A Seminar on Global Warming
- Loose Change offering for hunger - \$191.53
- Annual Conference participants in hunger rally and afternoon of work
- Preaching series on “Go Ye Into All the World” and “Mission Training”
- Learning about Fair Trade Coffee and other products
- Playground picnic table
- Pull tabs, eyeglasses, etc. for outreach ministries
- Conference Askings paid to outreach ministries in the district and conference
- UNICEF Trick or Treating - \$200
- Countless individuals involved in such things as SMART readers, Meals on Wheels, Social Agency boards
- Christmas baskets for 25 families feeding 150 people a holiday meal

Thanks be to God for the outward focus of this church!

Your Servant in Christ,
Deacon **Rhoda Markus**

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Please be sure that the church office has your new address as soon as possible. Thank you.

Liz Swenson
Church Administrative Assistant

MESSENGER SCHEDULE

The cutoff date for the February Messenger is January 18th. Late items will be carried over to the following month's issue. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Patty Davie, editor

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of December 16th, five weeks after our Commitment Sunday for the 2008 *Blessed to be a Blessing* Stewardship Campaign, we have received 83 estimate of giving cards for a total of \$173,892, compared with 89 cards and a total of \$167,556 for 2007. Thank you for your generous responses!

If you have not yet returned a card, we would appreciate hearing from you. If you need a card, please phone the church office at 503-357-2689.

Praise be to God for such amazing gifts and graces!

Ted Oakberg
Chair, Stewardship Campaign

IN MEMORIAM
BETTY JO CLAYTON

Betty Jo Clayton, 82, died November 26, 2007, at her home. One of ten children, she was born July 4, 1925, in Dillworth, Oklahoma, to Clarence Albert Jones and Della (Colby) Jones. The family moved to Colorado, living there until 1936, when they loaded their Essex automobile with all their belongings and moved to Oregon, settling in the Scappoose community. Betty graduated from Scappoose High School.

During World War II, Betty worked in the shipyards as an electric welder and assembler of ship parts. She was also a "Rosie the Riveter," installing rivets in aircraft.

On August 17, 1956, she married Calvin H. Clayton, Sr. here at our church. They made their home in the Forest Grove community; their family grew to six children. Betty and Calvin celebrated their 51st Wedding Anniversary this past August.

Besides being a housewife, Betty worked locally in the cannery. After the children were grown, she worked at Tektronix in Beaverton, while she earned her Associates Degree and became a Junior Technician; she retired after 17 ½ years.

Betty was a longtime active member of this church. Also She was a member of Toastmasters and a life member of the American Legion Washington Post #2 Auxiliary. When Cal was elected District Governor of Kiwanis International, Betty became the district's First Lady; they traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Betty loved birds and growing roses; her hobby was genealogy, and she had traced her roots in every state in the union. She and Cal had traveled by R.V. across the United States and Eastern Canada, as far as Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

She was preceded in death by her parents; six brothers and sisters; and two sons, James D. Clayton and Gary T. Clayton.

Betty is survived by her husband, Calvin H. "Cal" Clayton, Sr. of Forest Grove; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Calvin H. "Cal", Jr. and Patty Clayton of Forest Grove and Darrel Clayton of Hillsboro; two daughters, Pamela Clayton of Hillsboro and Loretta Clayton-Evans of San Antonio, Texas; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Lawrence and Anna Jones of Portland and Robert and Nancy Jones of Sun City West, Arizona; a sister and brother-in-law, Donna and Richard Knight of Cornelius; seven grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorial contributions to FGUMC.

NADINE SERAFIN

Nadine Serafin, 94, died November 14th, 2007, at her home at Jennings-McCall II. Born in San Francisco on December 24, 1912 to Rozier D. and Rose (Shepherd) Ferguson, Nadine grew up and was educated there. She lived in New York from 1930-1949; there she took in and provided a home for many foster children, while working as an upholstery seamstress. She moved back to California, and later to Bend, and then to Forest Grove. Nadine joined our church on April 11th, 1976. She moved to the Masonic and Eastern Star Home (now Jennings-McCall II) in August 1990. Nadine enjoyed the activities and bus outings, visiting with friends, and knitting or crocheting. Survivors include several nieces and nephews.

Remembrances are suggested to the Masonic & Eastern Star Home Endowment Fund.

SERMON SERIES PREACHING IDEAS

As I continue planning for worship in the coming years, I will once again take some time away early in the year to pray, adjust, and add to my preaching plan. If you have any topics you would like to hear addressed in my preaching, please let me know. I seek to preach the Gospel with relevance to our lives and times.

Pastor Dan

INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT THE CHURCH?

On Sunday afternoon, January 13, Pastor Dan will be leading a session at the church from 1-5 p.m. for any who are interested in learning about the church, and may want to join the church. We'll have an opportunity for anyone interested to join the church on Sunday, January 27th. If you have any questions, speak to Pastor Dan or Ted or Lois Oakberg.

NEW YEAR'S SERMON SERIES: LOVE, MARRIAGE, SEX, AND SINGLENESS

This series will examine the Biblical perspectives and realities of our most intimate relationships. Plan to join us as we examine some of the most difficult, yet most rewarding aspects of our lives:

January 13	Biblical Perspectives on Love
January 20	Guest Preacher
January 27	Biblical Perspectives on Marriage
February 3	Biblical Perspectives on Sex
February 10	Biblical Perspectives on Singleness

MEET OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Liz Swenson was hired in November as our new Administrative Assistant to Pastor Dan and the Church. She brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion to the position and her ministry.

Liz was born in New York City, lived in Arizona for a time before moving to Corvallis where she graduated from Corvallis High School in 1965. After obtaining her Bachelor's degree in Physics from Reed College, she, in her words, "kicked around" for a time at different jobs including teaching math at a middle school in Brewster, Washington. She was also a U2 Missionary with the campus ministry of the United Methodist Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

She and Karl were married in 1979, after which they lived for a time in Fargo, North Dakota, where she obtained her Master's degree in Computer Science. She worked as a software engineer for several years with AT & T in Colorado, which later became, among other entities, Avaya Labs Research during the Ma Bell breakup. When she retired from that work, she and Karl moved to Oregon because they both love it here.

In her free time, Liz reads a lot (science fiction, Popular Science), gardens sporadically, enjoys cooking, working with shelter ministries, and is interested in ethics related to advances in biology and medicine in particular. She and Karl have a 22-year old cat named Dear Abby who remains in good health.

Liz grew up a Unitarian, later joining the United Methodist Church in Brewster, Washington.

As you can see, Liz has a lot of life experiences, interests and gifts, and we're so glad to welcome her as our Administrative Assistant at the church. Welcome, Liz!



WEATHER SHELTER

Boy, it's cold.

I'm writing this about two weeks before you're reading it, but I think I've made a safe prediction. It's cold and wet, with the temperature hovering around freezing. It's very bad weather for people trying to live outdoors. Maybe even life-threatening.

At worship on December 9, our lay leader Dave Rose asked us to consider (among other things) what our church should be doing, both to nurture our congregation and to serve those outside it. Several of you expressed concern for those sleeping in cars and under bridges, and asked if we couldn't open our church to shelter them.

Well, we're going to try it. A number of churches around Washington County will be open, including Hillsboro UMC. We will coordinate with County Emergency Services and with law enforcement, and we'll offer shelter to anyone who needs it. In Forest Grove the UMC and UCC will collaborate. I don't know yet whether we'll use both church buildings, or just the UCC. There are good arguments for using a single site, so folks don't have to wonder which place to go to. And the UCC has the advantage of a shower. But as I write this, we haven't made any firm decisions. We may keep the plans flexible until later, when we have some idea how many will show up, and what kind of people – single men, single women, families with children, or unaccompanied minors.

Of course, we can't do any of this without volunteers. Each night we open, two or three volunteers will stay at the church. At least one must be a man, in the unlikely case someone wants to cause trouble. The volunteers will sleep in shifts from 7:00 pm – 7:00 am. We're not required to serve food, but I hope we can put out something hot and filling.

Can you help with this effort? Can you make coffee, or bring soup and rolls? Can you stay overnight? Will you pray for the volunteers, and guests, and for those who are still sleeping outdoors? If you can help, please contact me.

Liz Swenson; 503-628-5638, 503-840-0016 ejswenson@att.net

FOREST GROVE UMC MUSIC NEWS

Choir

2007 was a great growing year for our choir. We are looking forward to a fantastic 2008. We still need a few more singers. All sections need more members but we especially need Sopranos, so if you have been thinking of joining the choir now is the time! Our first rehearsal in 2008 will be Thursday, January 10, 2008 at 7 pm. Come and Join US!

Bell Choir

Our bell choir is really stretching and accomplishing a lot! We have lost a member and are in need of a few new players. If you have an interest in playing the bells with us, come join us in January! We will be working on our techniques and safe bell playing so it will be a great time to join us! Our first rehearsal in 2008 will be Sunday, January 13th at 11:30 am. (Lunch will be served.) Come and Join US!

Chime Choir

The chimes sound great! The 5-6th grades are working hard and doing a great job! This has worked out well for this age group this year but next year most of them will be moving to the Chancel Choir and /or Bell Choir. We hope members of our younger set will start thinking of joining chime choir in September of 2008! Our first chime choir practice in 2008 will be Thursday, January 10th at 6 pm. (Supper will be served.) We will meet at 6:15 the following weeks.

Children's Choir

Did you hear those animal singers at the Children's Christmas Program! WOW! We have a great group coming up. Encourage any little ones who like to sing to join us! We practice Sunday mornings following the Children's Time in the worship service.

Guitar Group

We are having a great time learning new music and increasing our abilities playing the guitar. If you play guitar, a little or a lot, come and join us. We'd love to have people who play other instruments join us as well. (Recorders, drums, etc.) We practice Thursday evenings at 5 pm in the Senior High Classroom.

If you have questions please talk to **Betty Pritchard**, 503-359-9340.

BUS DRIVERS

Volunteer drivers are needed for September and November 2008. Many members of our church family depend on the bus to come to worship. To serve in this very valuable way, please call **Linda King** at 503-522-1215.

PARENTS CLASS COMING SOON

Coming up is a class for parents aimed at strengthening the parental role in children's spiritual growth. It is intended primarily for parents of preschool children, but any parent (or grandparent) is certainly welcome. The class will use a book called "**Hand in Hand - Growing Spiritually With Our Children**" and be led by Rhoda Pittman Markus. The date is not set but we will begin mid January or the beginning of February and run for 4 sessions (possibly 8 since our Sunday morning time is short). It will be at 9 am on Sunday with child care available. If you are interested please be in touch with Rhoda. Watch for more information on time and registering so that books can be ordered.

Rhoda Pittman Markus
503-357-3998 home; 503-201-1233 cell

BIRTHDAYS

Virginia Wells	January 1 st
Andrew Tunall	January 3 rd
Kathleen Brown	January 4 th
Margaret Anne Cox	January 5 th
Tom House	January 7 th
Leota Trofitter	January 8 th
David Weekley	January 14 th
Linda Raycraft	January 15 th
Bonnie Cameron	January 17 th
Vera Illingsworth	January 19 th
Jan Stewart	January 20 th
Donna House	January 22 nd
Anne Brown	January 27 th
Tracy Gulacy	January 27 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Dan & Kathy Wilson-Fey	January 2 nd
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WESTERN DISTRICT SPIRITUAL RENEWAL EVENT

The 2008 Western District Spiritual Renewal Event is titled "Ministry in Daily Life: Connecting God's Story to Our Story." It will be held Saturday, Feb. 9th in McMinnville from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This event is for all Western District clergy, lay leadership and anyone interested in deepening their understanding of how their story and their church's story connect to God's story. Paul Adams, minister of Spiritual Formation at McMinnville Cooperative Ministries, and Rhoda Pittman Markus, Christian Education and Outreach Coordinator at Forest Grove UMC, will lead us in exploring our topic.

The McMinnville Praise Team and the Rev. Kate Conolly, our Western District Superintendent, will lead us in worship. We'll have a wonderful lunch catered by Rev. Mark Pederson, and a Cokesbury mini-store will be present at the event. Registration is \$15 per person, and covers lunch, snacks, all materials and child care for children ages 0 to 8. The event is appropriate for middle-schoolers on up! Registration is due by January 30 (January 22nd for those requesting childcare). Brochures and on-line registration are available at www.umoi.net and then click on "Western District." Contact Linda Grund-Clampit, Western District Administrative Assistant, at 503-581-3969 or wdumc@wvi.com with any questions.

Several members of our congregation have attended this event in the past and found it very inspiring. We will carpool to McMinnville, or take the church bus if there are enough riders.

SERVING IN JANUARY

Liturgist	TBA
Altar Guild	Volunteers needed
Bus Coordinator	Linda King, cell: 503-522-1215
Bus Driver	Delva Johnson
Ushers January	
Greeters January	Frank & Ella Colcord Margaret Hoerber
Coffee Coordinator	Volunteer needed
Fellowship Time January 6 th January 13 th January 20 th January 27 th	Congregational Care Edythe Westlund Donna House Martha Tunall
Nursery Attendant	Lindsay Marsh
Childcare Coordinator	Delva Johnson
Web Master	Jenny LaCombe
Acolytes January 6th January 13th January 20th January 27th	Sarah Hampton & Noah Wilson-Fey Connor Dionne & Fletcher Johnson John Huen & Cade Ashton Henry Gulacy & Noah Wilson-Fey
Kitchen Elves	Edythe Westlund & Patty Davie
Sound and Media	Steven Wong
Tape Ministry	Media team
Parish Nurse	Patti Rose

CHOIR CORNER — MEAGAN POTTER

Our flute soloist is a junior at Pacific U. with a double major in math and Spanish. She will be going to Spain to study Spring semester. Meagan has been active helping the Tabbs with our Youth. She is also helping Spanish-speaking families, interpreting for a sewing class and working with a preschool.

Meagan has been going home to Montana during the summers to work as a lifeguard. She is an avid lover of the out-of-doors. When not reading, she loves swimming, running, hiking, camping, skiing or kayaking. Glacier National Park is her favorite place to go. She has seen six grizzly bears, the closest from a distance of a mere 500 yards.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Forest Grove United Methodist Church is to welcome all people, wherever they are on their journey of faith, into nurturing relationships with Jesus and with one another, through worship, small group fellowship and service to others.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Volume 2008 Issue No. 1, **January**

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FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1726 Cedar Street, Forest Grove, OR 97116-2434

Daniel Wilson-Fey	503-359-4249	Pastor
Rhoda Markus	503-357-3998	Deacon
Bobby & Emily Tabb	503-844-7694	Youth Pastors
Liz Swenson	503-357-2689	Administrative Assistant

Church Office Hours, Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Patty Davie 503-357-3185 Messenger Editor

e-mail: plc2fd@verizon.net

F. G. U. M. C. CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
December 2007 <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">S</td><td style="font-size: small;">M</td><td style="font-size: small;">T</td><td style="font-size: small;">W</td><td style="font-size: small;">T</td><td style="font-size: small;">F</td><td style="font-size: small;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="color: red;">2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="color: red;">9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="color: red;">16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="color: red;">23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="color: red;">30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							1 New Years Day	2 NO Bible Study NO PLUNGE 7:00 p.m. Church Council	3	4 Pastor's Day Off Liz away	5 Pastor's Day Off
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6 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 Worship; Communion 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Outreach Committee 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Youth Group	7	8 7:00 p.m. Wesleyans; All women welcome!	9 NO Bible Study 3:30-6:30 p.m. PLUNGE 7:00 p.m. SPRC	10 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Youth Open Room 6:00 p.m. Chimes choir rehearsal 6:00 Grant Committee 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal	11 Pastor's Day Off	12 Pastor's Day Off																																																	
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				>----- Pastor Dan away -----> Board of Ordained Ministry meeting	<----- Youth Winter Retreat -----> Suttle Lake																																																		
20 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 Worship, Guest Preacher 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal NO Youth Group <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid yellow; padding: 2px;"> >----- Pastor Dan away -----> </div> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid cyan; padding: 2px;"> >----- Youth Winter Retreat -----> </div>	21 2:00 p.m. Jennings-McCall Gathering w/Pastor Dan	22 2:00 p.m. The Elms Gathering w/Pastor Dan 7:30 p.m. Finance Committee	23 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:30-6:30 p.m. PLUNGE	24 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Youth Open Room 6:15 p.m. Chimes choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal	25 Pastor's Day Off	26 Pastor's Day Off																																																	
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FINANCIAL OUTLOOK FOR 2008

On December 15th, the finance committee met to review the budget for 2008. Upon initial analysis, the difference between the church revenue and committee budget requests was roughly \$55,000 negative. In 2007 we had a similar difference, but eliminated it by liquidating a parsonage fund that was worth approximately \$40,000, and utilizing a fund for the trustees of about \$6000. Since we do not have these funds this year, and are facing increased expenses, we started out with a serious problem to address.

Planned revenues for this year are expected to increase by about \$20,000, primarily due to increased pledges and additional banking interest. This is offset by an increase in several expense categories, led by salaries & tax increases of \$32,000 from annual salary increases, conversion of our part time youth ministers into a single full time position, and increasing hours for both the secretary and music director. Apportionments and Askings (what we pay to support the Oregon / Idaho conference) increased by \$5600.

So.... How did the finance committee address budget deficit? Here is our plan:

- Solicit a grant to pay for the first year of additional hours for our youth ministry full time salary and benefits: \$15,000
- Ask the Trustees to address some of their larger needs (water heaters etc) through the grant process vs. the budget process: \$13,500
- Solicit a grant to extend the salary for our media assistance, until we understand better how to utilize this capability: \$1,650
- Ask the Outreach committee to look to their restricted fund (Kinch) to support the conference askings: \$3,500

These actions will increase our revenue by \$36,000, leaving us with a budget deficit of approximately \$20,000 that we will need to address.

Our steps to balance the budget will be:

1. Ask each committee to re-examine their budgets and reduce them by 5%.
2. Plan to utilize the contingency fund for a \$10,000 advance, as we did in 2006. In 2007 we were able to repay the 2006 loan, but will need borrow anew in 2008.
3. Re-analyze our revenue forecasts after year end to determine how much positive cash we have available from 2007, and will be able to better project our revenue from pledges.
4. If actions 1-3 do not close our gap, we will have to take more aggressive actions with our programs, building maintenance or salaries.

In summary: here is where we stand with the budget, assuming we have no positive cash carry forward from 2007 (we may have a small amount, but it is too early yet to know)

		2007 Actual	Annual Budget 2007	Annual Budget 2008
Total Revenue		\$291,053	\$293,858	\$288,168
Total Expense		\$284,912	\$293,821	\$311,399
	Difference	\$6,141	\$37	(\$23,231)

We will update the information for the congregation in January, when we have more information.

Submitted by *Bill Gulacy*, 2008 Finance Chair