

**Treasurer's Report  
December 2008**

|                       | <u>Jan-Dec 08</u> | <u>Jan-Dec 07</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Income                |                   |                   |
| Operating Income      | 464,652           | 495,511           |
| Total Income          | 464,652           | 495,511           |
| Expense               |                   |                   |
| Witness               | 30,566            | 27,484            |
| Administration        | 232,643           | 234,855           |
| Property              | 200,339           | 152,121           |
| Worship               | 6,074             | 7,544             |
| Christian Education   | 18,459            | 30,367            |
| Congregational Care   | 3,004             | 2,809             |
| New Membership        | 0                 | 114               |
| Stewardship           | 645               | 1,858             |
| Building Loan Payment | <u>27,066</u>     | <u>78,372</u>     |
| Total Expenses        | 518,795           | 535,525           |
| Net Income            | (54,144)          | (40,014)          |

**Financial Update**

“It’s Time to Be Mortgage Free” Status (through 12-31-08)

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Pledged:                     | \$270,413.56 |
| Collected:                   | \$400,280.60 |
| Match Received:              | \$348,064.68 |
| Paid Against Loan Principal: | \$769,825.20 |
| Mortgage Balance:            | \$469,107.73 |

Remember that the two-year Mortgage Reduction Campaign runs through February, and any giving until then will be matched.

Through 01-11-09 the Stewardship Campaign has received eighty-three Estimates of Giving totaling \$293,286.

*The glory of young men is their strength, gray hair the splendor of the old.*

Like many of the older members of our congregation, my 92-year-old father faces diminishing memory, failing health, and reduced activity. He has repeatedly reassured our family and his doctors that he is “ready to be promoted”! Because of his faith, Daddy doesn’t fear death itself, trusting in the promise of the resurrection through Jesus Christ.

But the question that puzzles him most is “Why?” He doesn’t ask, “Why is life difficult?” but “Why has God not taken me yet?” That question recurs among those I visit who are living increasingly limited lives. It’s a mystery to them and often to those who love them that they continue to live although life seems less and less meaningful.

Of course, the question is not limited to folks over 90! Any time we are faced with severe limitations to “normal” human life – debilitating illness, acute disability, or advanced dementia – we wonder if such a life has much meaning or value.

If we find value simply in what we do, in how useful and productive our lives are, then the very young, the very old, and the disabled may be considered useless. But God created human **beings**, not human **doings**. We are made for a relationship with God that never depends on our strength or abilities. God didn’t make us just to be useful!

God made human beings to be loved and to love. And so the newborn child is loved by family members, not because of what he can do, but simply because he is. My father’s life has continuing value, not because of his productivity, but because he is loved by God and by our family. Even an unresponsive patient who has no family has intrinsic value, because she is still loved by God.

Over the years, many of us will become “useless,” but we are never worthless in the sight of our Heavenly Father. As you care for aging parents, an incapacitated spouse, or small children, or as you yourself face diminishing abilities, remember that God’s everlasting love is what always makes life worth living.

Serving Christ with you,  
Rev. Kathryn Dudley  
356-3299

**Communion Dates for 2009**

**February 15**

**April 9 (by Intinction)**

**June 7**

**August 16**

**October 4**

**December 24**



**First Presbyterian Church  
Presents  
David Almond in  
A Celebration Concert**

On February 27 and 28 at 6:45 p.m., please join us for a celebration of the success of our two-year Mortgage Debt Reduction Campaign. David Almond, along with Mrs. Kim Brown of Sanford and Mrs. Shannon Shepard of Southern Pines will share the stage performing many different eras and styles of music, including classical, Broadway, rock, jazz and spiritual. There will be a live band including Bobby Johnson (drums), Robert Watson (guitar) and Fred Brush (bass). There will be dessert and coffee (or cold beverages) served prior to each show. The cost is \$10.00 per person with 75% of the proceeds going to the mortgage retirement and 25% going to the community handbell choir. Tickets will be sold in the colonnade after worship and in the church office or call David at 775-1762. Seating is limited, so get your tickets early.

(If you are willing to help with desserts, selling tickets, promoting the concert, clean up, etc., please contact David Almond.)

**Stephen Ministers Care for  
People Facing Tough Times**

We all experience challenges in life - times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty such as: Loss of loved one; Hospitalization; Divorce or separation; Loneliness or discouragement; Unemployment; A terminal illness; Aging; Birth, adoption, or miscarriage; A chronic illness; Relocation; Recovery after an accident or disaster.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. The identity of those receiving care and what takes place in each caring relationship remains private. Our scripture verse, "Love one another as I have loved." John 13:34

**Ad Hoc Committee to Study Duties of  
Deacons and Size of the Session and  
Deacon Boards**

In October a special committee was appointed by the Session to study the responsibilities/duties and the size of the Board of Deacons as well as the size of the Session. At the present time there are thirty (30) Deacons and twenty-four (24) Session members. Serving on the committee are Jerry Campbell, Scott Kimble and Michael Davenport from the Deacons along with Reggie Miller, Jimmy Washburn, and Helen Lynde - Chair., from the Session.

At the initial meeting in November the committee looked in the Bible and the Book of Order to see the responsibilities of the Deacons. Other Presbyterian churches in Lee Co. were asked if they had Deacons and, if so, what were their duties.

The committee decided that it would not meet again until the new pastor arrived. The decision was made to add to the committee three at-large members of the congregation, persons who are not current officers. Should you be interested in serving, please call or email Helen (777-9111, [helenlynde@windstream.net](mailto:helenlynde@windstream.net)).

There was a mix-up at the covered dish luncheon on Jan. 18th and I have a DEXTER-RUSSELL Stainless Sani-Safe spatula in my possession. Please call 774-8839 and I'll return the spatula to its owner.  
Thanks, Ruth Gurtis