



## First United Methodist Church

45201 North Territorial Road

Plymouth, Michigan 48170

*We invite people into Christian community where they can become  
deeply committed disciples of Jesus Christ*

Dr. John Grenfell III, *Senior Minister*

Rev. David Wichert, *Associate Minister*

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December 8, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The 2008 stewardship campaign is coming to a close and it is time for the annual financial review of Plymouth First United Methodist Church and to prepare a budget for 2009. Recently the finance committee met to do just that. We would like to inform you of our situation.

Total income in 2008 from tithes, offerings and other income is presently projected to be \$90,000 less than was anticipated when the 2008 budget was established last year. In May the finance committee asked all committee and program leaders to carefully consider their spending and reduce expenses as they were able. Every committee and program decreased their spending significantly to meet the challenging times. Everyone is aware of the very difficult decisions the staff parish relations committee made this past summer. However, even with all of the actions undertaken to reduce spending, it appears that expenses will exceed income by about \$19,000 in 2008.

We would like to thank those who have already submitted pledges for 2009. The good news is that even in these times of economic uncertainty, 35 new pledges have been received and 32% of our members who have pledged increased their pledges for 2009. However, based on the total pledges made for 2009, the budget recommendation from the finance committee is to reduce spending 7% from estimated 2008 actual expenses. A couple of key 2009 expense reductions are: a hold on funding capital improvements to the properties and a reduction of \$28,000 in salary and benefit expenditures that has yet to be identified by the staff parish relations committee. If you have not submitted a pledge for 2009 but still plan to pledge, or if can increase your pledge, please call Susan Henry, Financial Secretary, at (734) 453-5280. Also, please call Susan if at any time during the year you need to decrease your pledge.

It takes the entire community of faith to meet God's call. Please join us in continuing to:

- Pray for the world that the workers for the harvest are found and all may come to know the Heavenly Father as we do.
- Pray for the country that people come to God and find true peace.
- Pray for our staff as they teach and guide us in the ways of the Lord.
- Pray for the committee and program leaders as they seek to do God's will.
- Pray and ask God for His guidance and give as you are called to give.
  - Give of your time to God.
  - Give of your talents to God.
  - Give of your treasures to God.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or Ron Fair.

Yours in Christ,  
*Margaret J Lane*