

2008 Ministry Area Highlights

Here are just some examples of the many wonderful ministries and programs First Church was able to offer in 2008 through your giving. We appreciate all the volunteer hours members donated to help support our ministries, fellowship events and outreach programs.

Mission and Outreach

- ◆ Provided transportation assistance for over 400 people needing to return home, going for medical treatment or going to their new employment
- ◆ Laity Involved For Transportation (L.I.F.T.) drivers (30+ volunteers) drove approximately 15 people per week
- ◆ Support for the Arkansas Foodbank was \$1,600
- ◆ Faith Promise Campaign raised \$23,000 toward hunger relief
- ◆ Hosted families in 4 rotations for Interfaith Hospitality Network; numerous volunteers gave their time and money
- ◆ 600 attended the African Dinner, Drumming and Dancing Event which raised \$7,400 for health and educational needs in Burkina Faso
- ◆ \$6,500 was given to the Democratic Republic of Congo for construction of a water well
- ◆ 100 volunteers served lunch to approximately 130 homeless and underprivileged persons in our community through the Stewpot Ministry at First Presbyterian Church
- ◆ 100 volunteers served breakfast to nearly 120 homeless individuals at Quapaw Quarter UMC
- ◆ Caring Christmas Tree provided gifts to 150 families
- ◆ Funding Loans As Ministry to Entrepreneurs (F.L.A.M.E.) made 50 business startup loans to women worldwide
- ◆ 30 church members participated in the Walk for Community sponsored by Just Communities of Central Arkansas
- ◆ Contributed \$3,200 to the Black Community Development group to assist in funding of the Empowerment Center
- ◆ 9 people went to Earle, Arkansas in June to help with tornado damage cleanup
- ◆ Formation of First Church Green Team
- ◆ Through many events and projects the United Methodist Women collected needed items and funds for local, national, and global organizations



Nurture and Membership Care

The Member Care Team seeks to promote spiritual, emotional and tangible support to individuals throughout their lives in the church, particularly when a life changing event occurs such as illness, hospitalization, or death. The Member Care Team has become a vital and effective ministry of First Church. The specific ministries within this team include:

- ◆ First Food Teams provided 8 funeral receptions as well as delivered meals to 35 families who were ill, bereaved, or who welcomed new babies
- ◆ Flower Ministry Teams delivered arrangements from the Sunday altar flowers to those hospitalized, homebound, and in residential facilities
- ◆ Prayer Shawl Ministry members made and distributed shawls to those in need of comfort and healing
- ◆ Card Ministry members sent cards to those recovering from illness or in need of prayer

Adult Christian Education

First Church is truly a vibrant and inclusive congregation where spiritual friendships are formed and people experience God's transforming grace. Spiritual growth is an intentional on-going process essential to the life of faith.

- ◆ Average attendance of 200 in 12 Adult Sunday School Classes
- ◆ 20 adults participated in the Is Peace Possible? Israel Palestine Study
- ◆ 4 women participated in the Beth Moore Bible Study
- ◆ 5 parents participated in the Boundaries Study for Parents of Youth
- ◆ 10 people participated in the I Believe in Jesus Study
- ◆ 15 people attended the Weekly Pastor's noon Bible Study
- ◆ 15 men participated in the Men's Tuesday morning Study Group
- ◆ 8 people met weekly for Companions in Christ
- ◆ Disciple I and Disciple II Bible Studies ?
- ◆ 4 people participated in the Introduction to the Psalms (a short term Disciple Study)
- ◆ 16 people participated in the Visitation Team Training
- ◆ 10 participated in Don't Get Lent Out of Shape Study
- ◆ Started young couples Dinner Club
- ◆ 80 attended a Teaching Sedar led by Rabbi Eugene Levy

Membership/Worship

- ◆ 41 new members joined First Church in 2008
- ◆ 13 people were confirmed
- ◆ 16 baptisms were performed
- ◆ 1278 was total membership at the end of 2008
- ◆ Average attendance for Sunday worship services was 420
- ◆ Drama Team enhanced worship with skits



2008 Ministry Area Highlights

Children's Ministries

- ◆ Over 100 individuals participated in the Easter Egg Hunt
- ◆ Over 90 children, youth and adult volunteers attended Vacation Bible School and collected 65 boxes of cereal and \$89.04 for the Arkansas Foodbank
- ◆ 10 children attended the Created by God workshop
- ◆ 10 third graders were presented Bibles on Children's Sabbath
- ◆ 9 third graders participated in Bible Bash
- ◆ 17 children and adults participated in the Preschool Pajama Party
- ◆ 32 preschoolers and adults were entertained by Brian and Terri Kinder on Promotion Sunday
- ◆ 42 elementary aged children and adults participated in Faith Travelers 2008 Olympics on Promotion Sunday
- ◆ 76 children from the CDC attended weekly Chapel
- ◆ Reintroduced Early Christian Awareness (ECA) for children 6 month—3 years



Youth Ministries

- ◆ 24 youth and adults participated in the Jr. High Crosstraining Retreat at Camp Ozark with 3 other UM Churches
- ◆ 13 youth and adults participated in the Sr. High Retreat at Mount Eagle
- ◆ 59 youth and adults hit Playtime Pizza and "partied" in the church at the annual Lock-In-Lock-Out event
- ◆ 13 youth developed as Christian leaders in the B.O.O.Y.A. Team
- ◆ Sunday night First Youth average attendance was 26
- ◆ 30 youth and adults impacted lives in Jonesboro, AR at OMP
- ◆ 15 youth and adults participated in the Human Sexuality workshop
- ◆ 16 youth and 2 coaches participated in church league basketball
- ◆ 28 youth and adults participated in a spring break trip to Chicago in conjunction with the Center for Student Missions



Music Ministry



- ◆ Produced 2nd Edition First Word Band CD
- ◆ 20 children made a joyful noise in the Glory Singers and presented the musical, Elijah, in May and Once Upon a Christmas Light in December
- ◆ 10 preschoolers participated in the Quarter Notes choir and in Once Upon a Christmas Light
- ◆ The Youth Ensemble adopted the name VOICES: Voices Offered In Christ's Endless Service; VOICES led worship in First Word and First Tradition services
- ◆ The Chancel Choir and Ensemble increased their combined enrollment to a total of 75 members; these two groups elected Lay Leaders to assist in the leadership of the choirs
- ◆ The Ministry of Music presented its first annual Christmas on Center Street fundraising concert, featuring the music of the Chancel Choir (who sang J.S. Bach's Cantata No. 140), the Ensemble, VOICES and members of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra; Proceeds from this event were distributed between the Ministry of Music and the AR Foodbank Network
- ◆ More emphasis was placed upon spiritual health and prayer life in all ensembles of the Ministry of Music

Fellowship

- ◆ The June Ice Cream Social provided fun, sweet treats and fellowship for approximately 200 members and guests
- ◆ The Church Picnic provided food, games, entertainment and fellowship to church members and guests
- ◆ 200 members and guests attended the fall Halloween Carnival
- ◆ Over 200 people attended "Round the Table Carol Sing" which offered exuberant Christmas music, entertainment, games and potluck food
- ◆ Over 300 members and guests attended the First Word Block Party in April



Communications

- ◆ New Church Directory was created
- ◆ An Online Directory was added to our website
- ◆ Online Giving was made available through our website
- ◆ A Ministry Fair was offered in order to educate members and visitors about the ministries and programs at First Church
- ◆ New preschool, elementary, and youth brochures were created as informational tools
- ◆ Increased the number of newspaper and magazine advertisements
- ◆ First Church DVD was created to inform visitors about our church



2008 Operating Budget Performance



**Mr. Trent Hubbard,
Financial Administrator**

The Statement of Activities report below represents the operating budget performance of First United Methodist Church for the year ended December 31, 2008. The primary source of funding the operating budget is contributions from the congregation, but it is also funded through parking lot rentals, leased space and reimbursements from the Gertrude Rimmel Butler Child Development Center. Income received from designated gifts, memorials, and endowments is restricted and does not aid in the funding of the annual operating budget. Operating budget expenses include apportionments and benevolences, church programs and staffing, and property maintenance and utilities.

For the year ended December 31, 2008, First United Methodist Church reported a net income from operations of \$10,540! Total operating income of \$1,490,614 came in at 94% of the amount budgeted while total operating expenses of \$1,480,074 were held at 93%. On the income side, while contributions were 6% less than budgeted, some great news to report is that a total of 425 member families contributed towards the operating

budget in 2008, a 7% increase over the 400 families that contributed in 2007. Other operating income was slightly less than budgeted primarily due to a decrease in interest income earned on operating bank accounts. With regard to operating expenses, conference and district apportionments are paid in full each year, but the remainder of the other benevolences, programming and property maintenance expenses came in under budget by 7% due to the careful spending patterns of the staff.

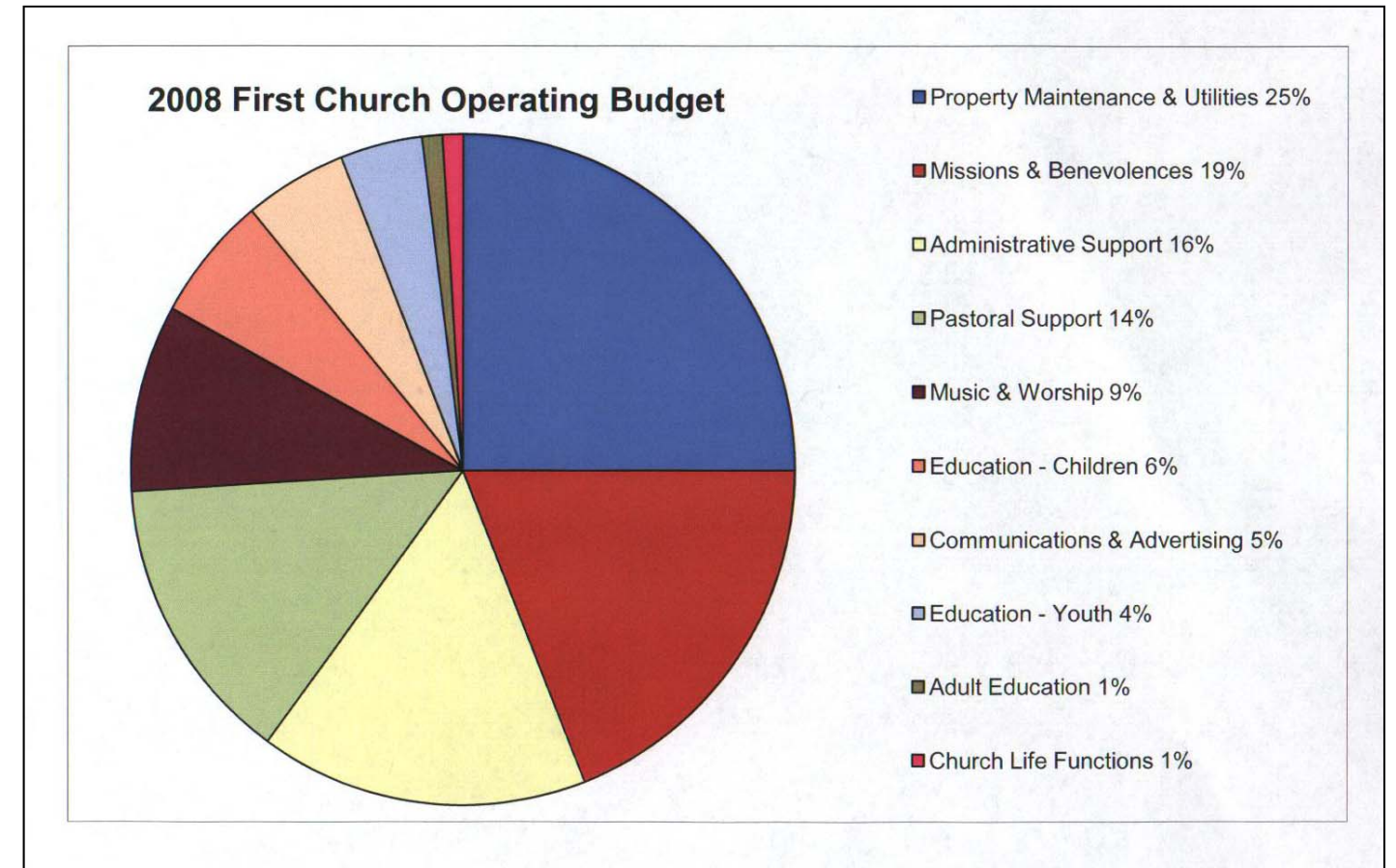
In 2008, the stewardship committee made the decision to return to traditional pledge cards. A total of 289 pledge cards were returned totaling \$1,111,596 thus representing 80% of the amount needed through contributions.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FROM OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

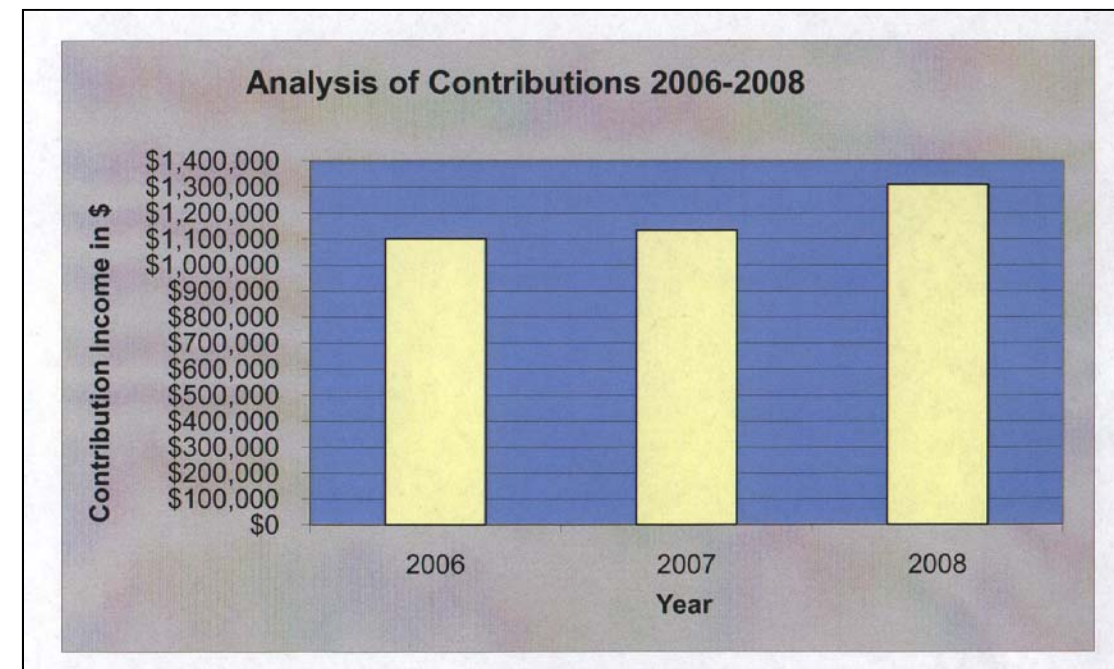
	<u>2008 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>
<u>Operating Income</u>		
Contribution Income	\$1,310,178	\$ 1,399,108
Other Operating Income	180,436	186,566
Total Operating Income	1,490,614	1,585,674
<u>Operating Expenses</u>		
Apportionments & Other Benevolences	238,786	242,596
Church Programs & Staffing	1,047,449	1,139,078
Property Maintenance & Utilities	193,839	204,000
Total Operating Expenses	1,480,074	1,585,674
Net Income from Operations	\$ 10,540	\$ 0

2008 Financial Information

The pie chart below is an illustration of each ministry area and program department as a percentage of the 2008 operating budget.



As members in The United Methodist Church, we made a vow to support the church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. One way we support our church through our gifts is the offering collected each Sunday. The following graph shows the total income from operating budget contributions for the previous three years.



- In 2006, a total of \$1,100,667 was given by 375 member families
- In 2007, a total of \$1,133,719 was given by 400 member families
- In 2008, a total of \$1,310,178 was given by 425 member families

