

GRACE UPON GRACE

**“From Jesus’ fullness, we all have received,
grace upon grace.” John 1:16**

Budget and Elections Meeting

March 14, 2010

Agenda

1. Local Budget
2. Benevolence Budget
3. Special offerings
4. Election of officers and boards and committee members
5. Fair Committee recommendations
6. Distribution of loose (plate) offerings
7. Other business??

Our Budget Story

- It's more than the numbers
- We also want to present the budget “story”—the thinking that went into these budget proposals
- (Don't worry—we also have a budget with numbers)
- We want to focus on the grace we receive from God and each other and how we share that grace with others in our church, our community, and our world
- A story of generosity!

VISION

- Together, we created a **VISION** of who we want to be as a church family
- About 90 of us!!!
- We took a look at what we love, what we'd like to change, and the type of church family we want to be part of
- This budget story helps us see how we can move toward that vision

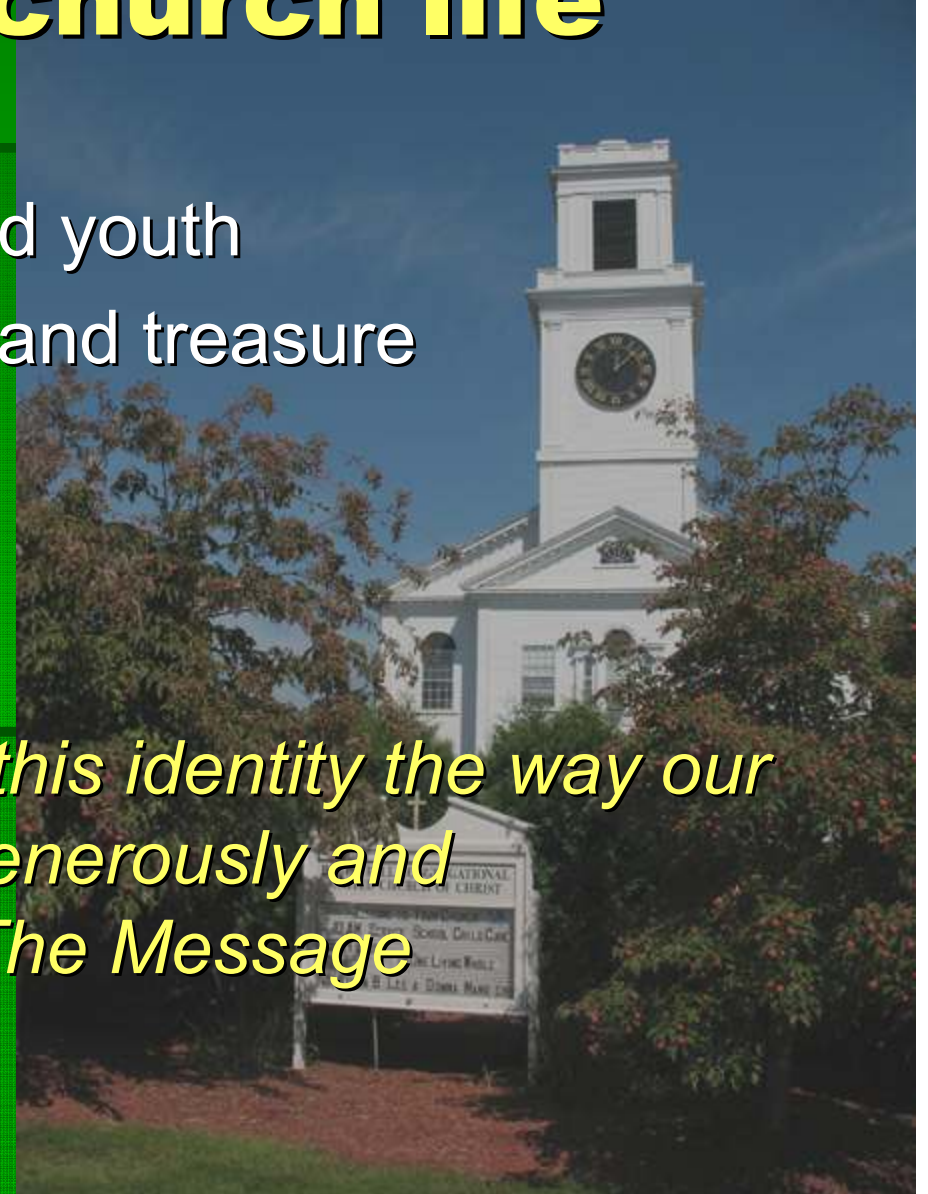
Our Vision: The very short version

- Welcoming
- Belonging/family (covenant)
- Worship/music experience (spirituality)
- Nurturing our children/youth (our future)
- Engaged membership (sharing our time and talent)
- Financially sound (sharing our treasure)
- Growth and vitality (our future)
- Caring for others (as Christ directed us)
- Tradition/heritage (honoring the past)

Our vision involves all aspects of our church life

- Worship and Spiritual life
- Engaging our children and youth
- Sharing our time, talents and treasure
- Caring for each other
- Caring for others
- Honoring our heritage

“Live generously! Live out this identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously!” Luke 6:29, The Message



Worship and Spiritual Life

- Sunday Worship
 - Lifting voices and hearts in prayer and praise
 - Providing comfort, challenge, community



Worship and Spiritual Life

- Sunday Worship
 - Hearing God's word in Scripture and preaching
 - Musical excellence & variety

“Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.”
Psalm 100:2



Worship and Spiritual Life

Special Services

Christmas Eve

Maundy Thursday

Healing Services

Baptisms, weddings, memorial services....

Blessing of the Animals

Monthly Communion

Heritage Sunday



Worship and Spiritual Life

- Studying and growing

Wednesday Bible study
Bad Girls of the Bible
Retreats for Boards and Committees
Advent Women's Retreat
Book Study
Open and Affirming Process
Lenten Soup and Stories



Engaging Our Children and Youth

- Enjoying our church family
 - Watching our children learn, grow and have fun in church



Engaging Our Children and Youth

- Enjoying our church family
 - Feeling a part of a caring and supportive, intergenerational church family



Engaging Our Children and Youth

- Welcoming young families into our midst
 - Creating welcoming events for children and young families



Engaging our Children and Youth

- Sunday morning Chapel and Church school
- Worship roles and leadership
- Lunch Bunch
- Youth Events
- Confirmation Program



Sharing Our Time, Talents and Treasures:



- Music
 - The joy of making music with others and for others
 - The joy of being moved by music
 - Appreciative congregation
 - Many opportunities (choir, bells, drums, orchestra, combos)

Sharing Our Time, Talents and Treasures:

- Pew Crew
- Carpentry
- Knitting
- Quilting



Sharing Our Time, Talents and Treasures:

- Art and Creativity
 - Cranes, Stars, Decorating, Posters
 - The list goes on and on....



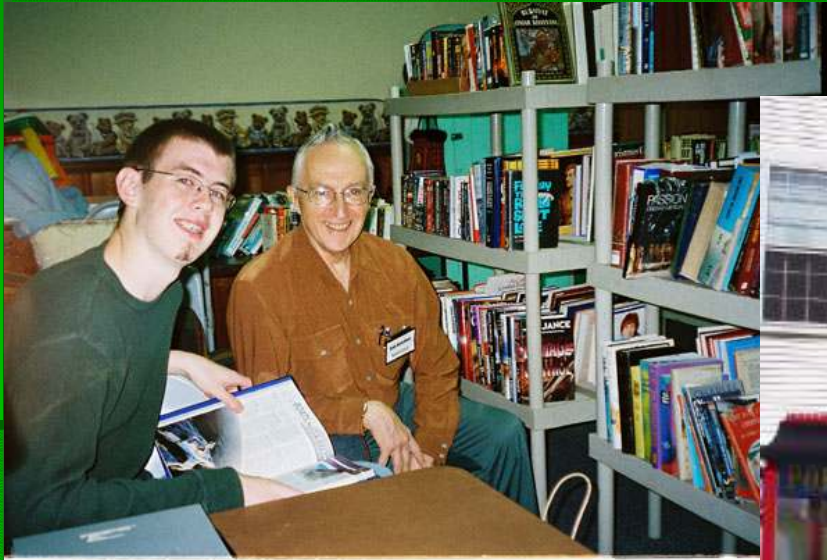
Sharing Our Time, Talents and Treasures:

- Our Harvest Fair and
- Roast beef dinner



Sharing Our Time, Talents and Treasures:

Fundraising projects



Sharing Our Time, Talents and Treasures:

INREACH: Coffee hour, Comfort Food Dinner, Sunday Greeters, Fair Trade Coffee, Food & Fellowship



**...and now a message from
our sponsor....**

**...Please come to the Children and
Youth Talent Show on Saturday,
March 20th...**



Caring for Each Other

- Companionship on life's journey
- Pastoral care by ministers and deacons and congregants
- Christmas & Easter plant deliveries
- Shawl ministry
- Meals, phone calls
- Hospital visits
- Heavenly Hosts



Caring for Others

- In Rocky Hill
 - Human Services donations in Benevolence budget and other gatherings/seasons
 - Monthly food collection



Caring for Others

- In Hartford
 - Christian Activities Council, Hands on Hartford, Habitat for Humanity, Walk Against Hunger



Caring for Others

- In Biloxi



Caring for Others

- In Haiti and Chile (Over \$12,500 sent for disaster relief from our church)
- ..and throughout the world—Our Church's Wider Mission; Blanket Cards for Church World Service, OGHS, NIN



Honoring Our Heritage

- Loving and caring for our beautiful building and our Memorial Garden



Honoring Our Heritage

Creating a gathering space for the wider community



Honoring Our Heritage

Honoring our traditions...



Honoring Our Heritage

God
is still
speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

....and also having courage to start new traditions like those who came before us

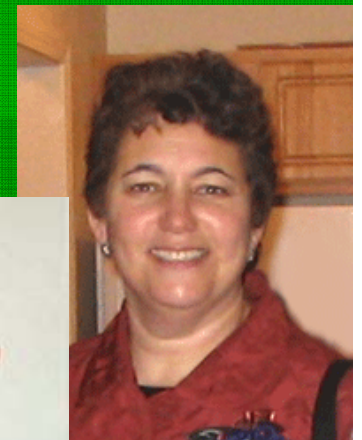


How do we Incorporate our Vision into our Budget?

- Budgeting to be a growing church, not a dying church
- Taking responsibility for underwriting a budget that helps us move toward the vision
- Focusing on the graces we receive from God and this community AND the spirit of joyful generosity that is alive and well among us

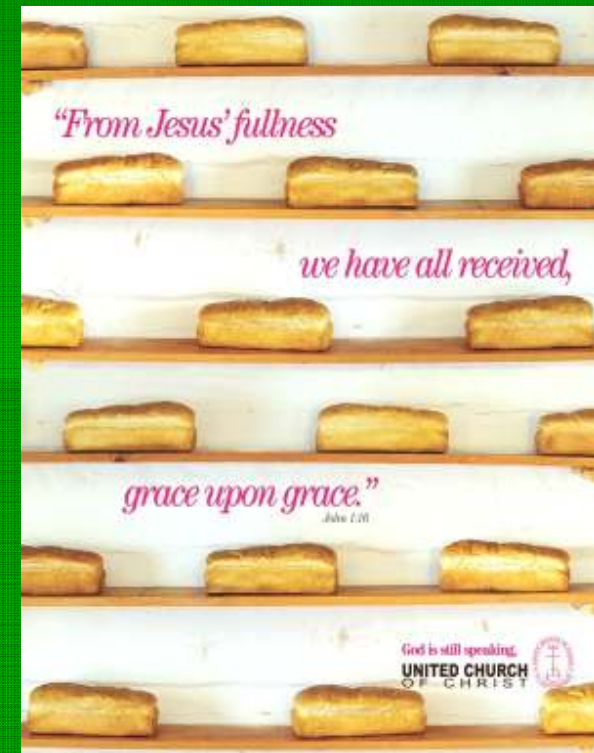
Linking our Budget to our Vision

- More emphasis on Christian Education to move from a “caretaker level” to proactively engage young families and the children and youth they bring
 - *More hours for Acting DCE*
- Ensuring proper staffing in a changing world to bring about the growth and vitality we desire
 - *Cost of living increases for staff*
 - *Engaging in Search Process*
 - *Engaging in “Staffing Conversations”*



Linking our Budget to our Vision

- Financial security
 - *Increased budget for Stewardship*
 - *Commitment to more fundraising efforts*
 - *Stewardship training*



A word about fundraising...

- We did it to raise funds (duh!)
 - *Scrip sales*
 - *Book fair*
 - *Church fair/dinner*
 - *Talent Show*
- Unexpected benefits
 - *Community/fellowship*
 - *Teamwork*
 - *Responsibility leads to a sense of empowerment*



The spirit of joyful generosity of time and talent has been evident in the raising of funds to underwrite our budget.

**And now, another message
from our sponsor....**

Buy scrip (please)!!!!!!

It's a completely painless way to help
underwrite our budget (and our vision).
\$1,500 raised to date by only 36
purchasers. The possibilities are
endless.....

Linking our Budget to our Vision

- We love our music program
 - *Some budget for new music (after a year of doing without)*



Linking our Budget to our Vision

- We value our heritage and traditions
 - *Maintaining our facilities*
 - *To be welcoming and accessible*
 - *To be a community gathering place*
 - *To be OUR gathering place*
 - *Continuing (and expanding) our programs*
 - *Attracting new members*
 - *Learning and growing*
 - *Feeding our souls*
 - *Feeding our bodies (it's what we do best!!!)*



Linking our Budget to our Vision

- We are a church of generosity to others
 - *Focused giving locally*
 - *Honoring our global mission*
 - *Over \$12,500 to Haiti and Chile disaster relief from our church.*



Budget with Numbers

Budget	2010-11	Prior Year
Local Operations	\$323,958	\$307,000
Benevolence	\$47,125	\$45,600
Total Budget	\$371,083	\$352,600
Increase in Total Budget	+5.25%	

Budget with Numbers

Pledge Goal	2010-11	Prior Year
Local Operations	\$270,482	\$269,000
Benevolence	\$47,125	\$45,600
Total Pledge Goal	\$317,607	\$314,600
Increase in Total Pledge Goal	+0.95% (but +5% vs. actual pledges)	

Agenda

1. Local Budget
2. Benevolence Budget
3. **Special offerings**
4. Election of officers and boards and committee members
5. Fair Committee recommendations
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Special Offerings...

NEW! May 23 - Strengthen the Church Offering

Types of programs this UCC offering covers:

- Funding new church starts and invigorating existing congregations
- Nurturing lay and pastoral leadership
- Building youth & young adult ministries
- Supporting the God is Stillspeaking Ministry and its extravagant welcome for all within the United Church of Christ.

Special Offerings...

May 23 - Strengthen the Church Offering / UCC

October 2010 - Neighbors in Need / UCC

November 2010 - Thanksgiving Offering / Board of Deacons

December 2010 - Christmas Offering / Board of Deacons

March 2011 - One Great Hour of Sharing / UCC

Easter 2011 – Easter Offering / Board of Missions