



First, a quick fact on finances and membership. It costs UUTC \$78 in dues for each member (and thus \$156 for each couple) to the district and the national organization. For those who feel you can't afford to pledge anything, please consider at least covering the dues UUTC pays for you.

If you haven't returned your pledge form yet, please do so as quickly as possible. The Finance Committee and Board need to know the total funds available for next year so we can prepare a budget to submit to the congregation. Why should you pledge? Ernie, Linda, Peg, Gerry, and other staff members; covenant groups, Wonderful Wednesdays, children's programs, ARE, music and other programs; our wonderful building and the utility and other expenses it takes to keep it open; and finally, you fill in the blank with what is most important to you:

The Board has two concerns relative to social action: First, that the program be funded at a generous level so we can meet our responsibility to the many needy in Transylvania County. And second, the Board wanted to let members decide directly on their priorities for funding the various organizations. Effective next fiscal year, on the first Sunday of every month a SAC member or representative of the organization selected by SAC as that month's recipient will describe the work done by that organization. A labeled envelope will be in every order of service. Unused labeled envelopes not used will be on the carts at each door entering the sanctuary on subsequent Sundays that month. Attendees can put their checks or cash in the envelopes and place them in the offering plates. All money collected in the envelopes will go to the organization designated at the end of each month. We hope that every organization will provide a table display for the lobby for the entire month to educate us on their mission and activities. In addition, SAC will have a line item in the budget for publicity and for funding organizations and needs not included in the 12 organizations selected over the course of the year.

Thanks to Dan Carter and Dick Bir for installing our new and improved (and much bigger) screen in the sanctuary and to Dan for making the wonderful cover for the screen. Thanks also to those individuals who donated money to purchase the screen and to the Sierra Club, which donated \$200 for the screen and to thank UUTC for the use of the building for its meetings. If you attended any of the last Wonderful Wednesday sessions, you know how well the screen works. A small group of individuals saw a need and took action to meet the need. If you know of a problem that you would like to help solve, let me know.

You may think from my monthly comments that everything is hunky-dory. I don't think that is the case. While we, as a congregation, are in admirable shape, there are gray clouds visible. First, I am bothered by the occasional lack of civility toward each other and a proclivity to criticize others. Please reread our covenant and then reconsider your critical comments before saying them.

Second, I must confess I am a little concerned about the status of the stewardship campaign. Less than half the pledging units have returned their pledges. A year ago we committed to expanding the CRE program and we are now reaping the benefits. That commitment needs to be continued year after year. Please do your part. Thank you.

