

From Sandra's Study
Rev. Sandra Fees

On May 18th, our congregation approved the capital campaign building project and the annual budget. Both are moving ahead in positive ways. We are in a good place financially to meet a number of our significant short and long-term goals.

This means there is a great deal of good news to celebrate. We have accomplished much together this year. We have raised 90 percent of our capital campaign goal, a total of \$338,594. We have raised more money in our annual budget than this church has ever raised before for an annual campaign, a total of \$147,735. We have accomplished both campaigns simultaneously, raising more money at one time than has ever been raised by this church before. Those three things are cause to celebrate.

The result is that we have more support for programs, committees, and activities in the coming fiscal year, including increased funding for religious education, worship and music, and social justice work in the community. We are moving toward fair compensation, beginning this coming July with a salary increase for me, your minister, the first I am receiving since my arrival at the congregation. We have increased support for building needs and custodial services. Our budget also reflects the rising costs for utilities and ongoing operations of the church facility.

Given all that we have accomplished, given all the good news, we still have room to grow. In particular, there is still one important item we were not able to fund this year. It is the creation of a building reserve fund, which would help us continue to create financial stability and build a reservoir for large and necessary building needs in the future. The idea of financial stability is something I have been hearing a lot about since my arrival at the church four years ago, and the building reserve fund would be a way to accomplish that. We had to eliminate it from this year's budget, but it will be high on our priority list in future years.

We expect that as our members and friends see the achievement we have made toward our mission and as new members join the church, our ability to fulfill our goals will only improve. Our pledge drive has ended, but the generosity and commitment of our members and friends continues. For anyone who has not yet made a pledge or for anyone new to our community, I encourage you to consider making a gift to the church to support our good work. Our intent is clear. We want a vibrant, thriving liberal religious community that transforms the hearts and minds and lives of people inside and outside the church. We are living into that vision. We are making it a reality. We are already well on the way.

Warmly,
Sandra