

At the annual meeting in January voting on the proposed 2008 budget was postponed. The congregation approved contingency spending based on the proposed budget until a special meeting to be scheduled by June 1.

Church council has heard your concerns regarding the proposed budget and we take them very seriously. Points raised during the congregational meeting include the fact that if income is equal to or less than last year, we may not be able to meet expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year. It was also suggested that if we truly see our giving as faith in ministry, we should meet the commitment.

Council is engaging a variety of efforts to respond to the concerns the proposed budget raises and concerns expressed at the January meeting. Scott McClain (church treasurer), Tom Barstow (Finance Committee chair), C. J. Purvis (financial secretary), Marcie Teenor (church accountant), Kathleen Jones (council president) and Pastor Ide have met and will continue to meet to develop a format for the monthly financial statement that makes our financial picture easier to understand. The Stewardship Committee continues its commitment to raise awareness of the importance of pledging and being good stewards of our resources. The Finance Committee together with council is examining Income vs. Expense trends over past years to compare to the current year's trend. We are looking carefully at pledging patterns of "giving units" both past and current to determine a fiscally responsible approach to looking to our future.

The special congregational meeting that was called for at the January meeting is scheduled for May 4. At that time the Finance Committee and the Treasurer will be able to report our first quarter Income vs. Expense picture for this year compared to the proposed budget. We will report on the outlook for the remainder of our fiscal year based on patterns of giving. At this meeting the congregation will vote to approve a budget.

This report is part of council's efforts to communicate budget concerns and plans to address them. We invite you to prayerfully join together to meet the budget that will maintain the ministry we joyfully participate in here at Peace Lutheran Church.