

“Never place a period where God has placed a comma. God is still speaking.”

The year 2011 is secured. I'm pleased to report a highly favorable outcome financially. Here is the bottom line: The general fund ended with a surplus. When added to the surplus carried forward from 2010, the net result is a \$21,211 cumulative surplus. Wow! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

This leaves us with some pleasant options in this difficult transition year. We will be coming back to you at the May congregational meeting for further discussion.

How did this happen? Income was below last year by \$3,496 and below budget by \$6,772. This was mostly due to lower congregational giving than last year and from the plan. Remember that giving for 2010 reached record high levels and produced a large surplus for 2010. However, we discovered an overlooked transfer at the end of the year that resulted in a much better than anticipated outcome.

Lower income was offset by spending constraints. Lower than planned spending, due to personnel turnover, a health plan credit, mild weather and careful attention to expenses by the committees, produced a favorable variance from budgeted expenses. Actual expenses for the general fund were \$23,500 below the budgeted levels, or about 4.3%.

The \$20,000 that was earmarked for a new Associate Pastor in 2009 remains in the bank and is reported as “temporarily restricted funds”.

The congregation approved borrowing \$88,000 to fund Sanctuary assessment/improvement projects in 2011. These funds were borrowed from FCC general endowments. The loan will be repaid over several years using available income from the building maintenance fund at the Kalamazoo Foundation.

Tom Powell, Treasurer