



**Rodin
The Thinker**

October, 2010

The Free Thinker

First Universalist Church of Norway, Unitarian Universalist
Since 1799, the Oldest Continuously Existing Universalist Church in Maine
Our Mission, as we live our historic liberal faith, is to nurture spiritual growth, honor diversity, and offer service with love.



OCTOBER, 2010



The Rev Richard Beal

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SCRYINGS

Oct. 3 Origins or "Where I'm Coming From." Over the past three years, Richard has shared a variety of stories about his background. With new members, people who have only heard some of what he's recounted, and in an attempt to place some of what he's said in a more coherent context, he'll be sharing some of his personal, intellectual and spiritual odyssey.

Bernice Martin Chair
Dorothy Raymond Co-clerk
Jan Cardoza Co-clerk
Marden Seavey Treasurer
Claire Gelinas Trustee
Peter Lenz Trustee

Oct. 10 Times and Seasons A celebration of Autumn and the natural world that sustains us and toward which we need to create a more sustainable sense of relationship.

Oct. 17 Visitors Sunday A day to invite unchurched friends or family members – perhaps folks who have given up on the church they were brought up in, or haven't found a church service or community they feel at home in – to come to church with you to check us out.

Pastoral Associates

Becky Hardy
Nancy Wood
Kathy Pewitt
Sally Bradley
Please call the church if you'd like a home number.

Oct. 24 A Harvest Communion Closer to our local harvesting time than Thanksgiving, we'll celebrate – in the Transylvanian style – the first of the four communion services we'll share this year.

October 31st : "Celebrating Saimhain - Summer's End" Our service this morning will be led by congregation members Helena Farr and Bernice Martin. Everyone is invited to bring a photo of a loved one who has passed on or an object connected to them.

Guest at Your Table will begin in November. This is a wonderful project for family participation. More details as we get closer...see Marilyn G. if you have any questions.

The Wayward Pulpit

In the early nineteenth century [near the beginning of the industrial revolution] teenage girls in Sheffield were employed as bench grinders to sharpen knives, scissors, and cutlery. Inhalation of metallic dust turned their complexions muddy, made their breathing labored and their coughs full of thick mucus. Before they became adults, they could no longer stand or sleep, and died soon thereafter. Toddlers from the ages of two to six were employed to make lace. Children were enslaved in airless rooms, pits, coalholes, and around dangerous pulleys and belts, to make chains, pins, snuffers and nails. They worked seventy-two hour weeks, from five in the morning until six at night. ... accidents were common; fingers, toes, and arms were crushed or severed. Working conditions were so filthy that disease affected everyone [and] early death was the rule. —From Blessed Unrest by Paul Hawken

Hawken's book is primarily about the rise of the environmental movement when the deteriorating condition of too much of the natural world received its first real attention in Rachel Carson's much vilified and viciously criticized Silent Spring. [Time magazine called "Silent Spring" an emotional and inaccurate outburst.] Criticism organized and paid for in the most part by chemical and petroleum corporations.

Hawken goes back two hundred years to show in depressing detail how material and property rights have for centuries again and again taken precedence over human rights. The parents, however brutalized themselves, undoubtedly did not love their children less when they were forced to send them into the terrible conditions of workshops, mills, and mines so there would be at least something on the table for them to eat. Jobs are necessities, and most of us will pay –or have others pay– most dearly for them. But it's only honest jobs and honest pay for honest labor that saves the human spirit as well as the human body.

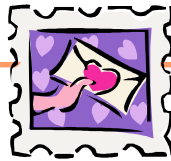
Eventually child labor was mostly –at least in the United States– outlawed. The eight hour day was – in large part – established. Workplace safety and healthful conditions – where there were adequate regulatory inspections – prevented the worst abuses that had put profits before worker's well being. And discrimination against women, ethnic and racial minorities, and the disabled was – and is still being – slowly mitigated.

In the beauty of the autumn, amid painted hills and woods, fields and pastures and marshes, it's easy to hear the songs of the remaining migrating birds and watch the activities of the small animals and insects that still live in close proximity to us. It's easy to forget how much we owe to people like Rachel Carson, Ed Muskie, Percival Baxter and groups like the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, our local Land Trusts, and the Wilderness Society that have prevailed upon, sometimes forced upon, our federal, state and local governments the laws which protect the environments we love and too often forget might not be there in the way they are today if not for wise land use and regulation. In many cases we owe the reds and oranges of maples, the yellows of birches, the browns of oaks, the whole panoply of colors on our hillsides and mountains to the fact that many chemicals were limited or banned and clear cutting and the replacement of multiple kinds of trees with more profitable rows of trees of like size, color, and shape were prevented. Not just by natural resource regulations but, indirectly, by aesthetic preservation efforts, we have the landscapes we love.

There are lessons in the history of greed and cautions in the experiences we have had, as individuals and as a people, in the social costs of selfishness. I think of these things as November draws nearer.

Hoping to see you in church,

Richard



Pastoral Associates

Elinore G. was seen tooling around in that PT Cruiser this summer, so we know she's had a good, warm season.

Our condolences go to **Helena and David F.** for the loss of a grandchild. Helena's daughter had a short pregnancy this summer and they were saddened to learn of this loss, though her daughter seems to be recovering well and has added even more direction and commitment to her life.

WELCOME!! **BURT K.** QUIETLY BUT COMMITTEDLY JOINED OUR CONGREGATION RECENTLY--- A WELCOMED ADDITION TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY.

The Keepers of the County Historical Museum at the Fairgrounds, **Dee and Kevin F.**, completed their second year at the fair this month. They show such a strong contribution to the community and lots of hours given, gladly. AND Dee received many ribbons, mostly first place, for her exhibits of knitting, self-spun yarn, home baked bread and her very first quilt! Smashing results! Kevin gladly received and displayed several donations for the museum from Oxford County citizens. Greeters at the Fair were **Barbara and Bill H.**, who reportedly enjoyed their job a lot!

Again, condolences go to **Darcy L.** who lost her father in August. It was good to see her and how much Kevin is growing, at a recent service.

Our downstairs bathrooms look so clean and fresh with new paint and prints. Thanks go to **Dorothy R.** apprentice, and **Pat S.**, professional. A correction from last month's newsletter----Becky Hardy's only contribution was a quick visit to chat one day, admiringly; she did not lift a brush to help...but along with everyone else, certainly feels gratitude for the work that was done.

We expect that **Pat S.**'s bid for political office will result in the same fresh, clean outcome and we support her many talents!!

Sally B. has had garage space available recently as Jan C. has sold her vintage auto.....another accomplishment.

Lee M. has had some medical procedures this past summer on that good old heart system of his, and he seems none the worse for the repairs. We so appreciate his ongoing work with Community Lunch, and the involvement of **Barbara H.** with that program, as well.

A casualty of last summer was **Joan Beal's** Red Subaru. She accidentally smashed it on Route 26, with no injury to herself, thank goodness. She has replaced it with a more boring-colored beige one that seems to get her back and forth to Lewiston, for that all consuming part-time job of hers.

Rumors about very efficient hearing aids seem to be circulating...so much so that the minister's printed copies of services aren't need by as many people as in the past. BUT PLEASE REMEMBER IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PRINTED COPY OF THE SERVICE JUST ASK RICHARD BEAL, MINISTER. We are always happy to accommodate you!

Social Justice Committee

The next meeting of the Social Justice Committee will be on **October 10th** following the morning service. If you can't make it to the meeting but have something for the agenda please contact Bernice M. All are welcome. Hope to see you there!

PEACE POLE CELEBRATION

On November 7th at 2:00pm we will gather in front of the church for the installation of a peace pole in the garden. The pole and installation are being generously donated by Herb and Mary Adams. The pole will bear the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in four languages. The Board chose the following languages for our pole. In honor of the historical connections of our faith, the message will be written in Hungarian. Japanese was chosen in honor of the pole's origins in Japan following the nuclear bombing there. The third language chosen by the Board is Somali in honor of the diversity of our communities and the immigrants who are a part of that community. It was decided that English, as the common language of our community, would be the fourth language used on the pole. So mark your calendars and let's celebrate the eternal hope of peace and our commitment to the work of peace. (That's also the 1st day of the clock change.)

Social Justice Highlights

As we all return from our summer adventures, the Social Justice Committee has gotten underway, planning our justice activities for the coming months. At our first meeting, we discussed ongoing projects and new ideas we hope to explore. Here are some highlights:

COFFEE, COFFEE, COFFEE, TEA & COCOA We are happy to begin our second year of offering Fair Trade coffee, tea and cocoa during our weekly coffee hour. We will be taking individual coffee orders throughout October. In November we hope to offer coffee, tea and cocoa gift baskets during our 10,000 Villages Festival Sale.

THIRD ANNUAL 10,000 VILLAGES FESTIVAL SALE Save the dates **November 26th - 28th**. On Friday evening, we begin with a preview sale during Open Mic. On Saturday, we plan to offer a light lunch during the sale, and we will wrap up the event on Sunday afternoon.

The Fourth Sunday Collection for October

The non-pledge contributions received during the fourth Sunday collection in October will be donated to the **Oxford Hills Food Pantry**. The recipients of our monthly collection are chosen by the social justice committee based on three criteria; 1) the program/project serves the local Oxford Hills area, 2) the program/project is denominationally affiliated or 3) the program/project is suggested by a church member. If you have suggestions for the Beyond Our Walls collection, please list the name and contact information on the suggestion list posted on the Social Justice board in the concert hall.

Weekly Offertory Collectors

October 3rd - Helena F. and Deborah C.
 October 10th - Richard P. and Ann J.
 October 17th - Carrie R. and TBA
 October 24th - Pat S. and Jan C.
 October 31st - TBA

Weekly Greeters

10-3-10 Nancy and TBA
 10-10-10 Jan & Pat
 10-17-10 Chet and Marilyn
 10-24-10 Debra & Claire
 10-31-10 Sally & Lou

Save the Planet—Share your Stuff!



By sharing our tools, appliances, equipment and skills, we can reduce our costs and our stuff, reduce our impact on the planet, and build our community! **Dorothy at 577-8665 or dfraymond@yahoo.com.** consumerism. Let's share

We are developing a list of items/skills to share, trade or barter within our church community. We will post and publish the list in the FreeThinker each month. Deals are made between individuals. **We have some skills to barter and items to trade or share:**

Item	Owner	Phone	Email	Notes
Laminator	Pete L	674-3887	lenzpete@yahoo.com	with instructions
Canning Equipment	Chris D		cdavis@roadrunner.com	with instructions
Hand Truck	Jan C	743-0505	harriet@megalink.net	
Rototiller	Jan C	"	"	
2-ton Jack	Jan C	"	"	
Leaf Blower	Dorothy R	577-8665	dfraymond@yahoo.com	
Dolly	Dorothy	"	"	
2 kayaks, paddles &	Dorothy	"	"	one is a sit-upon,
Bread Machine	Dorothy	"	"	with cookbook
Seal-a-meal	Dorothy	"	"	

Skills/Trades	Owner	Phone	Email	Notes
Cooking/ meals/soups	Chris D		cdavis@roadrunner.com	
Veg gardening	"		"	help, teach
Herbal tinctures			"	Elderberry, St Johnswort
Intrinsic Coaching	"		"	help to expand thinking; behavior changes
Parenting support	"		"	coursework and experience
Small engine re- pair (chain saw, lawn mower, etc.)	Bunk B	577-8666	dfraymond@yahoo.com	will repair Share Items for free; will trade whatever! for other repairs
Vinyl Signs, de- cals	"	"	"	will trade for whatever
Sewing, mending	Dorothy	577-8665	dfraymond@yahoo.com	hems, mending, curtains, pillows
Baking	"	"	"	breads, brownies, quick breads, cakes- healthy goodies!
Knitting	"	"		socks, hats, mittens, lessons
Books share/ trade	"	"	"	mysteries, politics, novels
Hot Tub	"	"	"	will share hot tub for brownies

Hospitality Calendar

October:

- 3 Minkes
- 10 Manatees
- 17 Belugas
- 24 Finbacks
- 31 Pilots

November:

- 7 Bottlenoses
- 14 Minkes
- 21 Manatees
- 28 **Stone Soup Potluck**

December:

- 5 Belugas
- 12 Finbacks
- 19 Pilots
- 26 **Pot Luck**

January:

- 2 Bottlenoses
- 9 Minkes
- 16 Manatees
- 23 Belugas
- 30 Finbacks

February:

- 6 Pilots
- 13 **Valentine's Potluck**
....Chocolate, Hearts, Roses
- 20 Bottlenoses
- 27 Minkes

March:

- 6 Manatees
- 13 Belugas
- 20 Finbacks
- 27 Pilots

April:

- 3 Bottlenoses
- 10 Minkes
- 17 Manatees
- 24 Belugas

May:

8 Men cook for Women on Mother's Day

- 15 Pilots
- 22 Bottlenoses
- 29 Minkes

June:

- 5 Manatees
- 12 Belugas
- 19 Women cook for Men on Father's Day**
- 26 Finbacks

Minkes: Ellen G., Peter L., Helena F., Cookie M.

Manatees: Jan C., Pat S., Deborah C., Sally B.

Belugas: Ann J., Bernice M., Kathy C., Lou B.

Finbacks: Barbara H., Richard P., Marilyn and Chet C.

Pilots: Gay D., Nancy W., Kathi P.

Bottlenoses: Joan B., Storm C., Becky H.

The following people are available to help any Pod by cooking or bringing something that is needed. They can also help set up or clean up if requested. They are not assigned to a particular pod, so are more flexible. Please ask them for help when needed.

Rowena P., Dee F., Cynthia and Marde S., Dorothy R., Claire G., Kerry R.

Basics Needed For Coffee Hour:

Milk for coffee, a cold drink, and something to go along with: Fruits, vegetables, cheese, crackers, soup or little sandwiches and something sweet are all possibilities.

There are donated cups and napkins available. Paper goods are stored in the cupboard under the counter, near coffee pots. Teas and sugar are there in baskets.

Bring what else you may need for paper goods, or "be green" and use church dishes and utensils. Tablecloths are in the drawer above this cupboard. Use these or bring your own. Our Fair Trade Coffee will be stored in the cupboard also. Remember to put out the donation bottle from the office so we can supply more coffee.

Read directions for making coffee on cupboard above the pots. cupboard or the high one near the stove. Hot water in a carafe should be put out for tea drinkers, near the juice, and coffee.

Please come early enough to set up—plug in coffee as you go up to the service, and clean up after coffee hour. Wash tubs and drainers are under the sink.

OCTOBER NORWAY UU

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes-	Thursday	Friday	Satur-
					1 AA 8-9 am Simchat Torah Jew- ish	2 AA 10-11a
3 9:30 Choir 11:00 Worship	4 AA 8-9 a St. Francis Day Christian	5 AA 8-9 am 12:15 Pastoral Assoc.	6 AA 8-9 am 11:30-12:30 Community Lunch	7 AA 8-9 am 5p Free Dinner by Progress Ctr	8 AA 8-9 am Navaratri Hindu	9 AA 10-11 am
10 9:30 Choir 11:00 Worship	11 AA 8-9 am	12 AA 8-9 am	13 AA 8-9 a 11:30 Community Lunch 6:30p Board	14 AA 8-9 am	15 AA 8-9 am 7-9 Drum- ming	16 AA 10-11 am
17 9:30 Choir 11:00 Worship Dasera Hindu	18 AA 8-9 am	19 AA 8-9 am	20 AA 8-9 am 11:30 Commu- nity Lunch	21 AA 8-9 am 5p Free Dinner by Progress Ctr 7p Cakes	22 AA 8-9 am	23 AA10-11am
24 9:30 Choir 11:00 Worship	25 AA 8-9am	26 AA 8-9 am	27 AA 8-9 am 11:30 Community Lunch	28 AA 8-9 am Milvian Bridge Day	29 AA 8-9 am	30 AA 10-11 a
31 9:30 Choir 11:00 Worship All Hallows Eve						

The Board of Trustees met on August 11, 2010 and discussed the following:

We have moved the **Board Meetings** to the **2nd Wednesday of the month at 6pm at the church** to allow a bit more time to prepare the previous month's reports. Everyone is welcome to attend Board meetings and/or bring thoughts, ideas, or problems to any board member for the agenda. Also, the complete minutes and all reports are available at the church in the Board of Trustees Log—copies can be made—or email Dorothy at dfraymond@yahoo.com.

Minister's Report: Richard reported another busy month. He conducted the last of the evening vesper services and the first of the regular Sunday services of the church year. There was a good turnout and Heather's musical presence was appreciated. He had a lovely supper at the N. Fryeburg Universalist church, met with Pastoral Associates and the West Paris board, and conducted one wedding. He'll be attending his regular meetings with district and community groups, beginning at Allen Ave. with the Southern cluster of the district's UUMA (Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association), then with the Oxford Hills Area Clergy Association- he may serve that group as chair this year. Next will be the Community Block Development Grant Community Advisory Committee. He is excited about our upcoming year, as are we all.

Financial: The dividends from our investments give us about half of what we need to run the church each month. Without more income, we might have to sell more of our investment next year but, of course, that reduces our dividends. We discussed creating a Financial Sustainability Group which would work with Growth, Membership, Canvass and other Groups to coordinate financial activities.

Social Justice: The "Peace Pole", donated by Herb and Mary Adams, will be installed in a November Peace Service organized by SJC.

Fund-Raising: West Paris is having a Rhubarb Festival in the spring- we could have a table there. DECA is having an event in November and we may be able to have Holiday Breads Table there, and include an early 10,000 Villages sale. Peter presented several ideas for possible bumper stickers that would represent Norway UU. We chose four sayings for printing and Peter will start production right away. *Look for our new stickers after church.*

Building Rentals: We should formalize our rental process and fees for outside groups (AA, etc), weddings, and other events. We need to improve our decision making process, develop rental contracts and a standard fee schedule, and establish a Building Group to oversee these and other issues. *If anyone is interested in joining the Building Group, let one of us know.*

Church groups and employees: We now have an Interim Personnel Committee formalizing job descriptions and the group work that gets done here at the church. The folks who are currently leading our various groups have agreed to "remain on the job" until we complete our process. *(If we missed anyone who does not wish to continue their leadership role, please let us know)* We also plan to develop an Operations Manual and Policy and Procedure Manual. Our goal is to make our employment, leadership and committee activities clear, accessible, consistent, and user-friendly.

In light of our efforts to formalize job descriptions and responsibilities, we are asking that folks go to Richard when they need help from Lori (Office Manager) or Kevin (Sexton). Richard will work with Lori or Kevin to get us the assistance we need. This will help to keep things organized and efficient. So, if you need your project typed or copied or hammered or removed, please talk to Richard first! Thank you.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will on October 13th at 6:00PM at church. All are welcome! Bring agenda items or talk to one of us.

Universal Prayer

by Bert K.

O Generating Spirit, source of the energy that inhabits and sustains the universe, we pray for help for all the peoples of the world.

We need help in reducing our many fears, especially the fear we hold of each other.

We need help in extending our capacity for love and compassion so that we may come to trust one another as companions in life.

We need help in creating a culture of peace wherein cooperation and mutuality replace aggression, violence and greed.

We pray that with help, we can grow in wisdom and live in a context of equality, justice and respect for one another.

We pray that, in our humanity, we may contribute to the sustenance of our world.



**Used Book Sale to
Benefit SJ**



We are off to a good start, raising \$14 at our September sale. Look for the next sale in October. Please bring in your best books for the sale!

Magazine Exchange

Bring some, take some every week!

First Quarter Expenses and Income versus Budget



Marden Seavey, Treasurer

The two charts below show the budgeted expenses versus the actual expenses and the budgeted income versus the actual income for the first quarter, July 1, 2010 to September 27, 2010.

The budget numbers for the quarter were obtained from the yearly budget figures (see the Annual Report 2009-2010) and dividing by four.

Both the expenses and income fall below the budgeted amounts, as can be seen in the titles of the two charts. The actual income (\$13,402) exceeds the actual expenses (\$11,840) by \$1,562. This surplus occurred because of reduced expenses in the summer months.

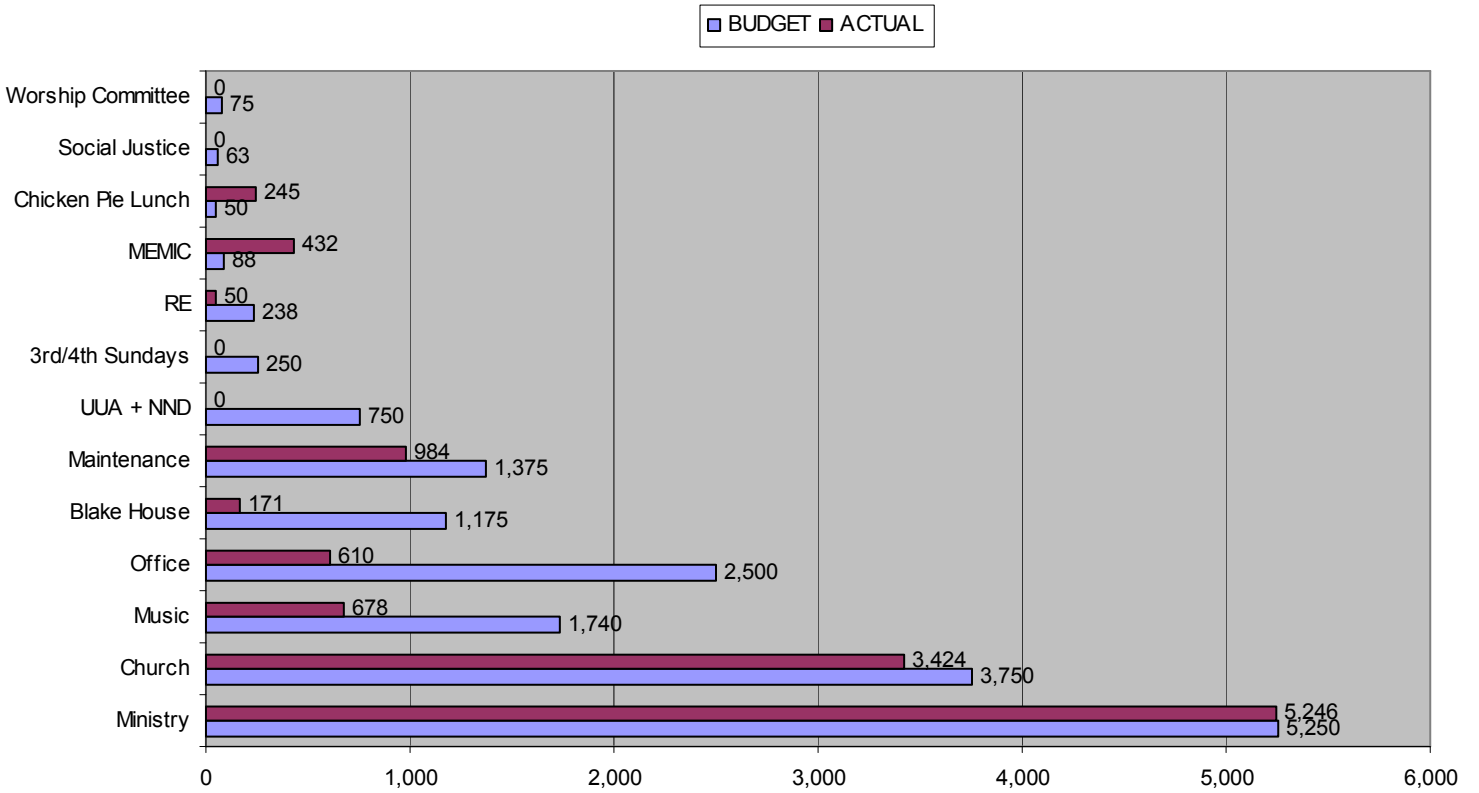
Inspection of the expenses chart shows that for Ministry, Church and Maintenance, the actual and budgeted values are relatively closer together than for the Music, Office, and Blake House categories. This is, again, due to lower expenses in the summer months.

In the case of MEMIC and the Chicken Pie Lunch, actual values for are much larger than budgeted simply because these are one-time expenses. No Fourth Sunday Collections have yet been made and the UUA and NND fees (\$2,993) have not yet been paid. Also, the large insurance bills on the church and Blake House (nearly \$4,000) will be due in May of 2011.

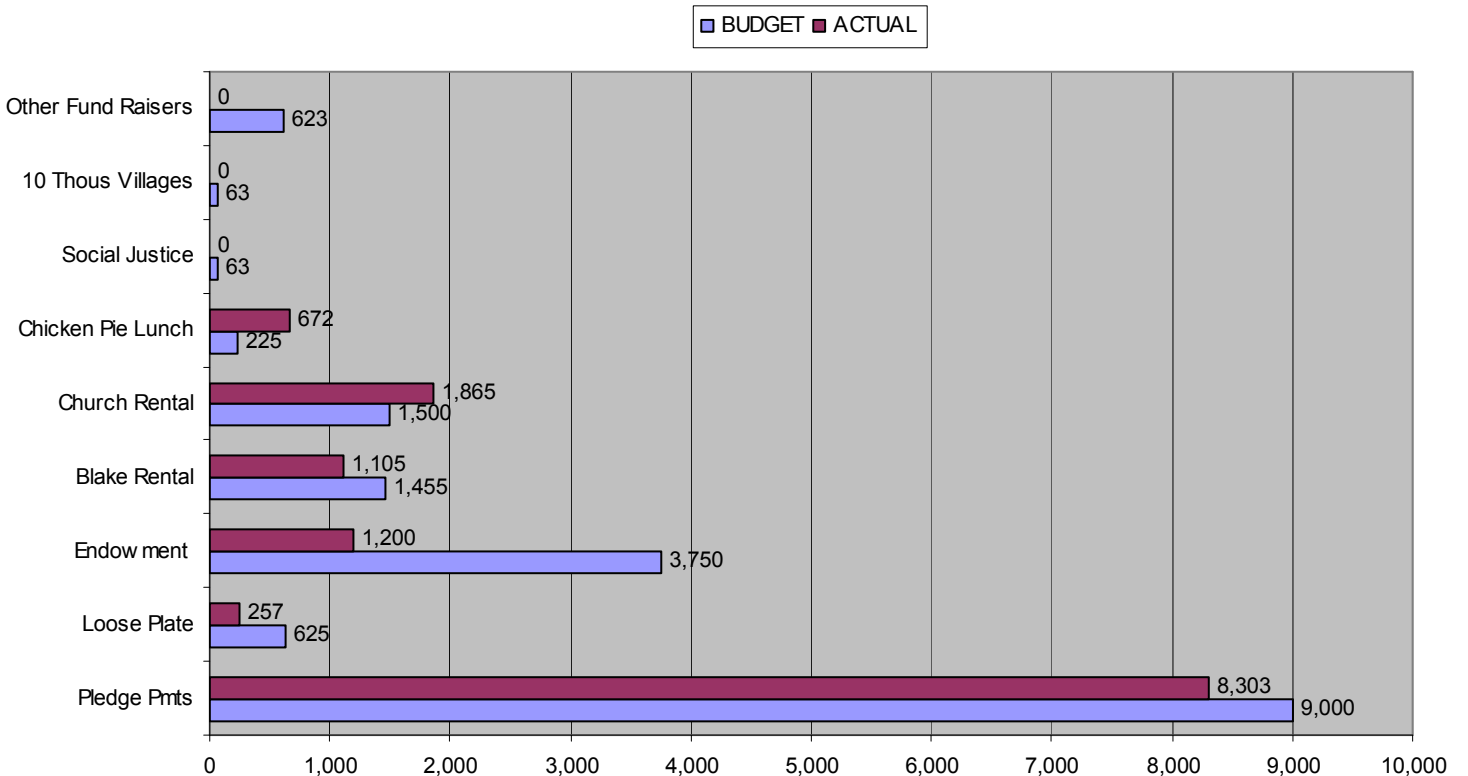
Inspection of the income chart shows that the Pledge Pmts are short of the budgeted amount by about \$700. This represents a 7.7% fall off from the goal which isn't bad considering that the first quarter includes the summer months. Of course, many bills need to be paid continuously throughout the year.

The income used from the Endowment (\$1,200) is considerable less than that budgeted (\$3,750) for the quarter. This is encouraging because it is important to cut back on the use of endowment income for operating expenses. However, endowment withdrawals will likely increase as expenses increase in the next quarters.

First Quarter Expenses: BUDGET=17,303 ACTUAL=11,840



First Quarter Income: BUDGET=17,303 ACTUAL=13,402



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Everybody Welcome! Please Join us!

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Sexton Kevin Farr 539-4232 farrou@roadrunner.com
Music Director Heather Pierson 935-4505(h) vesselrecordings@yahoo.com

A Welcoming Congregation that Puts Its Faith in You

The food pantry needs volunteers. Call Barbara H. 743-7806
Donate peanut butter, tuna, pasta, mac 'n cheese, "common things"

