

# Talking Cents



## EASY TO BE GREEN!

As you may have heard, we have recently made significant strides in reducing administrative costs and waste by “going green” with our monthly *Good News* church newsletter. We appreciate and applaud your efforts to practice good stewardship with God’s gifts. In this same spirit, here in the finance office we have opted to send quarterly “Statements of Giving” via email rather than the postal service. If we do not have your email address on file, please let us know by sending an email to [nicolesnedigar@laumc.org](mailto:nicolesnedigar@laumc.org). If you prefer to receive a paper copy of your Statement of Giving, please consider making a donation above and beyond your regular giving toward the cost of first-class postage. Everyone will receive a paper statement at the end of the year. Thank you for helping us use God’s gifts wisely!

## Support the Ministries of LAUMC with Automatic Contributions

ACH (Automated Clearing House) direct payments are an easy way to give to the church monthly. Scheduled ACH transactions are automatically transferred from your bank account to the church’s bank account on the first Monday of each month. If you would like to set this up, contact the finance department to obtain a form (650) 948-1083 x126.

## Coming soon...

Keep an eye out for a new series of classes to be offered in the next few months at LAUMC, addressing various topics to change the way you think about personal finance! The 13-week program is a highly entertaining video-based curriculum that will empower you to make the right financial decisions to achieve your financial goals. It focuses on living well while eliminating debt and building wealth.

## “How Are We Doing?”

Understandably, this is the prevailing question lately at any church meeting where financial reporting is relevant. Our response: “Money In” figures are running close to our expected range through the end of March. However, we are definitely experiencing a downward trend in contributions. Our church leaders have been anticipating this trend, and it comes as no surprise, given our current economic environment. Our staff and committees are doing an outstanding job of holding expenses and are carefully considering creative plans of action to ensure that our church remains financially strong and responsible in our stewardship. LAUMC is here to support you and likewise needs your support now more than ever to continue the ministries of our congregation to our community!

## Operating Fund Financial Summary thru March 2009

	Actual YTD:	Budget YTD:
<b>“Money In”</b>		
Contribution Income	416,030	347,299
Non-Contribution Income	24,526	16,293
Transfers In	<u>46,413</u>	<u>42,500</u>
Total Money In	486,969	406,092
<b>“Money Out”</b>		
Staffing Costs	413,286	416,421
Program Costs	19,655	16,681
Administration	23,241	24,327
Property Operations	64,025	67,356
Direct Giving	<u>49,924</u>	<u>41,676</u>
Total Money Out	570,131	566,461

**Net Activity** (83,162) (160,369)

Did you know that the above information is available to everyone, anytime? Binders containing monthly financial reports are available for your perusal in the church office. Feel free to stop by and ask, or attend an Administrative Board meeting for more information!