

Part XVI
Managing Our Money – Finance Committee
*(This is part of an ongoing series of articles about the
church's finances by Dual Macintyre, Treasurer)*

The Finance committee was formed in 2003 by the Vestry to oversee the total finances of the parish. The committee provides advice and counsel to the Treasurer and to the Vestry, but it also has several activities for which it is solely responsible. These include: supervising the annual audit of the church's financial records; making recommendations to the Vestry concerning the investment of the church's funds, primarily endowment funds; maintaining an inventory of the church's assets; monitoring revenues and expenses throughout the year; recommending new revenue sources for the church; and reviewing and approving the annual operating budget each year before it is presented to the Vestry and at the annual meeting.

The current members of the committee are: Lou Gennaro, Chair; Dual Macintyre, Treasurer; Nancy Jane Woolley, Roger Brown, Debbie Bennett, Pam Goddard and Kiril Coonley. The Rector and the two Wardens are *ex officio* members of the committee, which meets several times each year. The committee is always interested in having new members, so if you have an interest, please contact Lou Gennaro.

The annual audit is a major effort for the committee each year because it is required of all churches in the Diocese. The audit is conducted using a detailed checklist provided by the Diocese so that all audits are conducted according to the same standard. It has been the custom to conduct these audits on a three-year cycle, both for the experience it provides and to minimize the expenses for an outside CPA. The first year of the cycle is done by an outside auditor, with assistance from members of the committee. The primary goal of this audit is to review the church's financial processes to insure they conform to generally accepted accounting principles. For the second year of the cycle, the audit is conducted by the Finance committee members themselves, again using the Diocesan checklist. The goal here is to give the committee members direct exposure to the church's financial processes as well as to follow-up on recommendations made during the prior audit. On the third year, the audit team is made up of parish members who are not on the committee. The purpose of this team is to bring a "fresh pair of eyes" to look at the financial processes, but using the standard checklist again.

Managing the Church's endowment is also a major responsibility of this committee. We have four separate accounts which we consider endowments or investments. First we have the Diocesan Investment Trust, a restricted endowment established in the 1930's with proceeds from the sale of the old rectory. Next we have two endowment accounts with Fidelity Investments. The first was established in 2007 when we consolidated a number of other accounts and the second was established last year as a restricted fund for the management of the W. Nelson Ripley endowment. Finally, we have a "rainy day" account at the Nantucket Bank, where we keep enough unrestricted gifts and bequests to meet an emergency that might arise. While not strictly an endowment account, we consider it an investment and will not draw on the principal unless a true emergency arises. The total value of all our endowment accounts is just over \$300,000.