



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

The Ministry of Stewardship and Finance

May 2011

Message From the Finance Committee

"They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 2:42

The Easter story of God's conspiracy of life continues! This month there is a little change of format from the usual, because what I want to share with you in terms of financial ministry brings all of our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness together.

Not long after Jesus' resurrection, the apostles and the followers of Jesus were meeting very regularly in the Temple and in one another's homes in Jerusalem and the surrounding area. Their "devotion" to the teaching/learning, to worship in the breaking of the bread, and their prayers kept Jesus' resurrection always at the center of their being as human-beings and the church-being! As the church, they focused their lives by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ for one another and for all. Their "being" as persons of Christ and the church began to take on cosmic and eternal significance. Their "legacy" has lasted into our time of "being" as followers of Jesus and the church of Jesus Christ.

Did you know that there is a witness to faith in those persons who have added to the legacy of that early church? "They" are you and me and many others who have gone before us who have given financial gifts that first came from God and are given back to through the church for the eternal and risen presence of Jesus Christ in our daily lives!

The weekly tithes and offerings make the day-to-day ministries a reality providing for the basic framework of ministry – the local church each week in worship, Sunday school, VBS, youth ministries, spiritual support, pastoral care of members and non-members, prayer ministries, work in the community, and sharing the good news for those who are curious about Jesus who we worship; and the framework of mission – Conference Apportionments that extend our local ministry in partnership with other UMC's around the world! Your and my tithes and offerings continue that legacy of the early church for the salvation of the world in Jesus Christ!

In addition to this financial ministry is another essential financial ministry: the ministry of special offerings, memorials, and Foundation giving.

Did you know that in the past several months our giving to special mission offerings has been a blessing of life to many people beyond our community, giving the life and hope of Jesus Christ? Take a look at the list that is printed in this and every month.

Did you know that the special gifts that many of us have given to the financial stewardship ministries (How Firm a Foundation Phase 2), to memorials of our dearly departed saints, and to The St. Paul's Foundation have continued the legacy of the early church in the following ways?

- Sanctuary elevator renovations to comply with Iowa Code for safety, \$18,600 through How Firm a Foundation Phase 2.
- Library Remodel, projected completion date July, 2011, \$7,300, through memorials in the names of Carol **Mather, Ann Buroker, Neil Vauthrin and St. Paul's Foundation Proceeds** designated by the Church Council.
- New carpeting, painting, and asbestos removal for rooms 105 and 107, \$6,200 through memorials in the name of Beryl Layton and How Firm a Foundation Phase 2.
- Playground fall zone material replacement, projected completion, June 2011, \$13,000, from a grant from

the **Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation and St. Paul's Foundation funds** through the Sending to Serve Committee.

- Room 117 audio/visual technology upgrade, now in progress now, \$6,900, from the Compass Class and **St. Paul's Foundation** through the Church Council.
- Room 317 audio/visual technology upgrade, nearly completed, \$3,400, from memorials in the names of **Ray Nissen, Marlette Jensen, Larry Baker, Shirley Dickens, Eva Popper and St. Paul's Foundation** through the Church Council. distribution
- New, safer church entry matting upgrades, \$1000 through **St. Paul's Foundation proceeds specifically** for the building.
- New commercial dishwasher for the small kitchen, \$625, from the **Trustees' operating budget**.
- New leaf bagger and mulcher, \$2,300, from the **Justice Endowment given to St. Paul's Foundation for** church building and grounds.
- **Materials for new Cubbies for Early Childhood Programs and Children's Sunday School**, \$5,000, from memorials in the names of many persons.
- Mission support, \$18,500, for the 2011 young adult, Sr. High, and Mid High Mission trips.
- Travel, housing, and meal expenses, estimated at \$7,000, for Pastor Harlan Gillespie to attend the World Methodist Conference in Durban, South Africa, August 1-14, 2011, as a delegate from St. Paul's and the Iowa Conference of the UMC, from the **St. Paul's Foundation** through the Church Council.
- Salary support for two years, \$32,000, for the new contemporary worship leader, presently filled by Matt German, from the **St. Paul's Foundation** through the Church Council.
- Scholarships for the 2011-2012 school year for high school graduates of St. Paul's and from area high schools and for seminary students, \$11,375, to be awarded on Sunday, May 22, from the **St. Paul's Foundation**.
- Cement repair at Circle Drive to level pavement and prevent tripping on uneven surface, \$1,925, from the **Trustees' operating budget**.

Amazingly, this is a total of \$135,125 that is over and beyond the daily operating ministries! This special giving for ministries is the love of Christ in action from persons who are with us now and who have died and gone before us in the faith to make sure that the church of Jesus Christ is faithful today and prepares for the future!

Personally, I am very thankful for what may be a once in life time opportunity to attend the World Methodist Conference in August because of the **St. Paul's Foundation, the Church Council, and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee**. Bishop Trimble nominated me for the Conference. Without the support of the Foundation, Church Council, SPRC, and you, I would have a great deal of difficulty attending. Tom Sears pointed out that others from St. Paul's – clergy and laity – have been delegates to past World Methodist Conferences. This keeps us **connected in the ministry of Jesus Christ. I pray that my attendance will benefit both St. Paul's and the church** at large in some way that blesses the ministry of Jesus Christ.

I know that my personal thanks to you and to God are also extended from all the children, youth, and adults who have benefited in faith from the ministries that are represented by the giving listed above. For all of what is listed above – and more – thanks be to God and to the many saints of Jesus Christ – past and present – for prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness in the name of Jesus! ***Continue to devote yourselves "to the apostle's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."***

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Harlan Gillespie

Our Gifts: Every Household – not equal gifts but equal sacrifice to grow in faith.

In God's love we are made, each, with unique combinations of gifts and talents. God does not expect that each of us will give ourselves in identical ways, but that we will give and give sacrificially. The opportunities for giving to God through Jesus' church increases the love of God in our lives and in the lives of others. Let God search your heart; and give as God's love leads you!

Our Gifts: Recent Special Mission Offerings:

- Linn Comm. Food Bank ---\$65 plus several bags of food items.
- Ecumenical Center: It has a mission of sharing ministries of humanitarian care and service with the surrounding neighborhoods, including Helping Hands, CompuPlace and ECC Agency Housing. ---- \$1,344
- Easter Offering: This offering was divided between 1. Neighborhood Meals, a local ecumenical ministry which provides hundreds of meals in our social hall throughout the summer -\$4,554--- and 2. the Central Conference Pension Initiative, supporting native African pastors and their spouses who have been left in critical need throughout Africa. ----\$4,418
- **Mother's Day Church World Service Blankets:** This is an organization which responds to disasters with blankets, tents, bedding, food, medicine and other emergency supplies as well as seeds and tools to struggling farmers, and water and health to impoverished communities. -----\$399
- \$640 for UMCOR Emergency relief and rebuilding from the historic spring storms in the southern United States

Special Mission Offerings in the near future:

- Ongoing—a special offering continues to be taken for UMCOR for the spring storms.
- May 21 & 22 Native American Ministries: This offering through the United Methodist Church gives us the opportunity to respond to funding urban ministries and scholarships with Native Americans.
- June 4 & 5 Linn County Food Bank: Help feed local hungry families through your offerings.
- June 11 & 12 Peace With Justice: This offering empowers United Methodists to work for peace supporting ministries in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the United States and worldwide to remove unjust systems and equip young victims of sexual and physical violence. Workshops educate and empower Congolese people about justice issues in their communities and seek local solutions to close the gap between rich and poor.
- June 18 & 19 Heifer Project International: Empower a community to rise out of poverty, struggling for the basic necessities of food, income and education to build a better life.

For a complete calendar of 2011 Special Offerings, pick up a wallet- sized card at the St. Paul's Welcome Centers

Our Gifts: Our Gift of Time:

Kate Brokaw has returned from Haiti on a "rewarding...wonderful" mission trip. She has already spoken with the combined Family Fellowship and Kum Disciple Sunday Schools regarding this mission trip to help work with the Solar Oven Project.



Solar ovens with black pots await families during a cooking workshop.

Our Gifts: The General Ministry Budget

April Income	Year to Date Income all sources	Five Year Average Income	April Expenses	Year to Date Expenses	Five Year Average Expenses
\$96,565	\$368,724	\$372,136	\$105,828	\$437,241	\$424,172

The above chart is a review of monthly and annual income year to date as compared with the five averages for income and expense. The income year to date is 2.6% below the average. Expenses are 4.7% below projected budget, however, but 5.8% above the five year average.

Our total Apportionments commitment through April is \$76,786. We have paid \$18,350 of our commitment and will be making a payment of \$8,100 in May.

As summer nears and vacation times come, have you considered making your contributions through automatic deduction? Even if you are out of town, we receive your contribution. This greatly helps the church's cash flow during the summer months. If you are interested in automatic deductions, contact the church finance office.

We are blessed by the many resources God has provided for us. Through your generous giving, we will continue to advance the mission of the church.

Blessings,

Kate Ulmer, Treasurer

Our Service

St. Paul's Playground

The playground for St. Paul's needs to be resurfaced so that it can meet current standards. Removal of the current surface will take place May 23-28, and placement of the new surface will take place June 2-4. Tools, dumptruck, skid-loader, and wheelbarrows will be available all week. Enjoy an evening or Saturday working with friends to help St. Paul's children now and for years to come! Call the office for details

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