



# ***St. Paul's United Methodist Church***

## ***The Ministry of Finance***

February 2011

### ***Message From the Finance Committee***

***"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." 1 Corinthians 3:6***

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church about the true source of any and all growth that we have in faith. That source is God. Contained in the pages of this newsletter are stories of how we finished 2010 and have begun 2011 – stories about the ministry of finance – also how finances related to the full spectrum of God's gifts – prayers, presence, gifts, witness and service. Beyond that, these stories are about the lives of people – you and me and people in the community, in the state, and all around the world.

Paul was responding to an argument within the Corinthian Church: who was more important, Paul or Apollos (a very gifted preacher)? Who had the better spiritual gifts and the deepest faith? All of that mattered for nothing, Paul told them. Because behind all of this outward and visible "stuff" of faith – is the love of God in Jesus Christ. God gives everything – our lives, the breath we take, the talents and skills of our lives, our relationships, the earth upon which we stand, our minds, our souls, our bodies. Everything – including whatever growth we may have in faith – is a gift from God – a gift that needs to be nurtured and used for both our own good and the good of the Church and the world.

We are not separate people, but people of faith incorporated into the Body of Christ – the church – not by our own goodness, but by God's grace and God's grace alone. That makes us partners, equals, fragile yet resilient people, forgiven, loved, and sent into the world to be Christians – or rather to practice at being Christians!

One cold month into the new year and God is still the only presence in our lives that is the source of our lives – a warm presence that not only comforts us but also challenges us to grow in faith, both inwardly and outwardly.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Harlan Gillespie

## ***Report on Church Council Priorities for End of Year 2010 Ministry and The Match***

Our Church Council on Tuesday, December 18, affirmed the gracious gift of the anonymous donors of The Match challenge and celebrated the gifts that members and friends of St. Paul's have given to The Match to this point. The Council set two goals as listed below with the results of those goals.

- **The Church finished the year with all of the ministry financial goals of 2010 completed with the exception of Conference Apportionments of which we have nearly completed 11 of the 12 months, 90+%. This was a great improvement over 2009 when Apportionments were paid at 58%. Great thanksgivings to you and to God for the grace! Remember, everything we financially support locally and around the world is a mission of Jesus Christ.**
- **The Match – By the close of December 31, 243 households had made special offerings to The Match that totaled \$114,069 – well over The Match goal of \$75,000. The anonymous donors gladly sent the \$75,000 Match check the first of February. The Match total of \$187,393 made all the difference – a blessed difference – in completing the 2010 ministries as reported above! Thanks be to God and to you!**

## ***Update on Working Budget for 2011***

As we reported in December, the Church Council adopted a working budget for ministry for 2011. Since that time, the church received a \$33,000 anonymous gift for 2011 ministries that increased the estimated income from \$1.13 million to \$1.163 million. In addition the projected expenses will be adjusted by the change from 3 full time administrative assistants to 2.5. This adjustment in expenses is not reflected in the figures below, but will be by the time that SPRC hires the new assistant and the ministry of finance committee reviews the figures in upcoming meetings. In good faith and as partners one another in Christ as United Methodist Christians, we will continue to reduce the projected deficit and faithfully complete the ministry of Jesus for 2011.

<b>2011 General Budget for Mission and Ministry</b>		<b>\$1.36 million</b>
Staff Salaries/Benefits	\$832,000	
Trustees (Building & Grounds)	\$ 230,000	
Conference Apportionments	\$ 231,000	
Program Ministries	\$ 67,000	
<b>2011 Estimated Income</b>		<b>\$1.163 million</b>
Contributions-All Giving with historic discount 3.8%	\$1,106,500	
Other Sources	\$ 56,500	
<b>Deficit for 2011</b>		<b>\$197,000</b>

## ***Our Prayers & Witness***

***Unbinding Your Heart – 40 Days of Prayer & Faith Sharing*** is the Lenten study for this year. Everyone – visitors, members, friends, community folks new and long time – are invited to be a part of this moving study about what it means for us to witness to our faith. That sounds daunting, but really – everyone of us has a story to share about the love of Jesus in our lives. ***Unbinding Your Heart*** will help us prayerfully listen to one another's story of Jesus in our lives and help us to tell our own stories – all the while helping us as a church find our shared story of Jesus in and through St. Paul's for the community around us! Sign up for a small group on Saturday or Sunday at worship, through the church office, or online at our website: [www.stpaulsumc.org/lentstudy](http://www.stpaulsumc.org/lentstudy).

## ***Our Presence – Worshiping God***

**Matt German** has been added to our ministry leadership as the new contemporary/celebration worship leader. Matt will assist the worship committee and others who seek to connect to God through contemporary worship to re-vamp, upgrade, and renew contemporary worship at St. Paul's! Matt will be using the month of February to take in what you believe God is calling worship to be and preparing to actively lead in March. Keep him and the worship committee and contemporary worship planning in your prayers. Come and visit with him before or after the services!

**Attendance for 2010.** Due to some early year and late year (especially Christmas Eve) blizzards and ice storms that fell on weekends (!) the 2010 weekly worship average dipped ever so slightly to 590 from 595 in 2009. However, the month of January 2011 averaged 615 – well above the January averages for the last 5 years. Maybe we are getting acclimated to colder weather! Someone needs your presence in worship and you need others' presence in worship, because God has made us a people who need to be in a relationship of grace. Come to worship this week!

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

All of us a members of St. Paul's UMC need to tell of God's work in and through us all the more, to build one another up and improve upon the way that we are working with God for the sake of the world and for the sake of all those, including ourselves, who need to hear and see and feel the work of God in our lives, and that others mature in faith. What to do:

- **Pray that our souls be filled with courageous faith to meet the challenges and graces of the present day and the future for ourselves, the world, the church of Jesus Christ, and the neighborhoods in which we live.**
- **Consider in prayer what it is that God calls each of us and all of us to do love God and our neighbors through the Church by generous offerings of our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness to know and follow Christ and to help others know and follow Christ so that we will love God and our neighbors through the Church of Jesus Christ called St. Paul's.**

## **Our Gifts: The General Ministry Budget**

January Income	Year to Date Income all sources	Five Year Average Income	January Expenses	Year to Date Expenses	Five Year Average Expenses
\$94,961	\$94,961	\$86,821	\$123,639	\$123,639	\$106,413

The above chart is a review of monthly and annual giving year to date as compared with the five averages for income and expense. The income appears above the average. however, January was a five Sunday month. Expenses are within budget but above the five year average.

Our total Apportionments commitment January is \$19,197. See Pastor Harlan's information on 2010 apportionments and payment.

As we are one month into the new year, we are optimistic that we will see continued financial giving to advance the mission of the church.

Blessings,

Kate Ulmer, Treasurer

## Our Gifts: Recent Special Mission Offerings:

\$8,539.25 **Christmas Eve Mission Offering** supporting **St. Paul's Emergency Assistance Fund** as well as a new ecumenical ministry for local homeless families called **Family Promise**.

\$368 for the **Linn Community Food Bank** collected January 1/2.

\$206 **January 15 & 16 Human Relations Day** – supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs.

\$5,155.10 **Pastor's Youth Lunches**, sharing food and Christ with over 400 youth each week from Kennedy and Washington High Schools. collected Jan. 29/30

\$202 and 30 bags of groceries for the **Linn Community Food Bank** collected February 5/6

\$675.70 **Souper Bowl Day of Caring**, supporting local food resources for hungry neighbors on February 5/6.

## Special Mission Offerings in the near future:

**February – March- Interfaith Religious Council Collection** – Check the bulletin board and donate toiletry articles to the Cedar House Shelter.

The **Network of Faith**, sponsored by the Inter-Religious Council, is a group of diverse faith communities in Linn County who help area shelters. This year we are collecting paper products and cleaning supplies for The Cedar House Emergency Shelter. The Cedar House has been providing emergency shelter for homeless men and women, with or without children, since 2001. Please see the bulletin board in the main hall for how you can help. Please bring the item on your fish to St Paul's by Sunday, March 27. **Thank you - from the Sending to Serve committee!**

Feb. 19/20 - **SPRINT Program**, a St. Paul's summertime neighborhood ministry for children

March 5/6 **Linn Comm. Food Bank**

March 19 & 20 **Ingathering**, funds for gathering materials and supplies for worldwide care 'kits'

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

## Our Service

We each "volunteer" our ministry to Jesus, but Jesus has already called us and given us gifts and graces to be in ministry. This is what it means to be baptized by water and the Spirit in name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are called to share the good news in our service in countless ways that are like one another's calling and, at the same time, very unique to each one of us who is named and claimed by God.

Each week in the "Church at Work" worship handout there are many ways to offer yourself in ministry. Can't find something there that connects to you? Then contact any one of the pastors or ministry leaders and offer what you would like to do – you might even start a new ministry as long as there is at least one other person to partner with you!

## "Faith Factor"

A group instigated by the Church Council in December's meeting has begun meeting to look at additional way of financial support for the ministries of Jesus that will also provide more opportunities for laity to be in hands on ministry and create new ways of growing both the church and the community in God's invitation of health and salvation. If you feel a tug at your heart from the Holy Spirit to participate in the prayer and planning, contact Pastor Harlan Gillespie, Lorna Barnes, Council Chair, and/or Ron Bunch, Council Vice-chair to get involved!

