



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

## *The Ministry of Stewardship and Finance*

October 2011

### *Message From the Finance Committee*

October, 2011 – Extravagant Generosity: The Heart of Giving

*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

*1 Timothy 6:17-19*

Friends in Christ,

The Christian faith is a faith that looks to the past, but does not live in the past. The past, in our faith, is remembered so that we can live today and face the future unafraid. Familiar, and not so familiar, **Bible stories are recalled to show us how God is always with us, that God made God's home among us in Jesus Christ, and that the continual presence of God through the Holy Spirit is our advocate, our comforter, our source of courage.**

This is especially important when we find ourselves living in times that we perceive to have massive change and/or instability. This past week was the first Sunday of our church-wide study ***Extravagant Generosity***. Last Sunday's video of contemplative prayer, based upon **1 Timothy 6:17-19**, asked us to consider several questions. *Is our hope based upon wealth, or is it based upon God? Are we rich in wealth and/or rich in good deeds? What is life that is truly life? What is the foundation upon which we live each day and for the future?*

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was very intent upon living our salvation – **God's grace** given in Jesus Christ – completely both in this life and in the life to come. The way to do that was to be “methodical” – that is, to methodically pray, worship, serve, work, witness, and live a life of generosity for both today and the future. **Much of our Christian method is in contrast to the world's values today as it was in Wesley's time of the 1700's and in Paul's time when he wrote to Timothy in the first century.**

Take hold of the life that is truly life, doing good and living generously. Prepare for today and tomorrow – and for those who come after us, as those who went before us in the faith prepared for us in the **good that they did and the generosity they lived. Let the record of God's activity in the Bible be an inspiration for seeing God's loving activity today and assurance of God's presence in the future.**

Part of this newsletter is devoted to the ministry and mission our leadership believes God calls us to undertake and will equip us to do in 2012. The financial information listed here is arranged in the five primary areas of ministry of St. Paul's. **It is the companion detail to the brochure “Our Scope of Ministries”** that is in this newsletter. The estimated ministry and missions for 2012 is a 5% increase over 2011.

Since 1999 the giving level as a church has remained consistently at \$1.2 to \$1.27 million per year. Considering the floods of 2008 and the following economic collapse, this is remarkable, and worth celebrating! During this time we have trimmed administrative costs, consolidated ministries and missions, and reduced staff. However, the cost of ministry and missions continued to inch slowly upward. In recent years our giving has not kept up with the increasing costs of mission and ministry. So, while our estimated 2012 scope of ministries is a 5% increase over 2011, our growth in generosity will need to increase by 15% to 20% over what has been given and will yet be given in 2011 to balance 2012.

A challenging situation? **Yes.** A doable challenge? **Yes, with God's inspiration and presence.** I am suggesting that we set a **Challenge Goal of increasing our estimates of giving at 15% and a "Hallelujah" Goal of 20% for 2012.**

You might ask, **"How does our scope of ministry compare with other churches like St. Paul's?"**

At the annual Downtown Church Network gathering held in Colorado Springs last week, I and senior pastors from 12 other UMC's had a conversation about budgets and ministry. For churches similar to St. Paul's in membership, average worship attendance, and setting for ministry, St. Paul's was the lowest annual ministry budget. All the other churches had annual budgets of \$1.8 to \$2.6 million, had larger staffs for ministry, and larger funds allocated to building maintenance and improvement. Some of these churches reside in areas of hurricanes, some in communities of recent flooding. All have experienced massive changes in employment. All are housed in historic buildings set in downtown or near downtown mission fields at their doorsteps. Many of them also have Foundations that, like ours, supplements the ministries and missions of the church over and above their general budgets

*All these churches share with us the challenges of meeting the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in a broken community and world; are looking to God for hope and direction; are seeking better and more effective ways of doing ministry; are looking for ways to improve and add on to their buildings to better equip the church for ministry today and tomorrow.*

And like them, we share the need to grow in faith, in the life that is truly life for ourselves and for others around us and in the world. So, come with me, with our leadership teams and mission and ministry areas into ministry today and for the future. **Let us look to our past for encouragement and inspiration to see God actively working today and in the future, in our lives and in and through St. Paul's and the church around the world.**

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Harlan Gillespie

### 2012 Narrative Scope of Ministry Detail

*See the enclosed color brochure for more information*

<b>Worship &amp; Music Ministries</b>	<b>\$333,122</b>	<b>23%</b>
Worship Supplies	6,950	
Music Ministries	13,600	
Audio-Visual	1,975	
Salary, Taxes, Benefits Allocations	299,405	
Information Technology & Office Supplies	11,192	
<b>Teaching and Equipping Believers for Effective Service and Ministry</b>	<b>\$221,919</b>	<b>15%</b>
Children, Youth & Adult Studies	9,000	
Youth Ministries	10,500	
Library	1,200	
Salary, Taxes, Benefits Allocations	190,027	
Information Technology & Office Supplies	11,192	
<b>Congregational Care</b>	<b>\$124,684</b>	<b>9%</b>
Care Programs	9,800	
Salary, Taxes, Benefits Allocations	103,692	
Information Technology & Office Supplies 2	11,192	

<b>Mission and Outreach Reflecting God's Love</b>	<b>\$367,501</b>	<b>26%</b>
Apportionments	231,672	
Reaching & Receiving/Evangelism	11,800	
Sending to Serve/Missions Education	2,700	
Salary, Taxes, Benefits Allocations	110,137	
Information Technology & Office Supplies	11,192	
<b>Daily Ministry Support</b>	<b>\$379,966</b>	<b>27%</b>
Utilities	84,825	
Insurance	34,200	
Church/Parsonage/Housing Allowances	90,210	
Salary, Taxes, Benefits Allocations	159,539	
Information Technology & Office Supplies	11,192	
<b>Total Projected Ministries &amp; Missions for 2012</b>	<b>\$1,427,192</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Our Gifts: Recent Special Mission Offerings:*

Linn Comm. Food Bank: \$590 plus several bags of food items, helping feed local hungry families.  
THANK YOU

Ingathering: \$480 given in September for a total these past 3 months of \$3,129. THANK YOU for helping us reach our goal of \$3000 in additional funds for this worldwide ministry effort growing from United Methodist's in Iowa.

Christian Ed Sunday \$318 THANK YOU

Mission of Hope Food Pantry: THANK YOU for participating in Colton Valenta's Eagle Scout Project by offering food items. Colton's food drive collected over 150 bags of food from several churches to fill the shelves of the Mission of Hope Pantry!

Undy Sundays for Matthew 25 Ministry Hub: THANK YOU for donations of 292 pairs of underwear, 30 undershirts, and 160 pairs of socks. These will be shared with area school children as they are needed throughout the year.

*Special Mission Offerings in the near future:*

November 5 & 6 Linn Community Food Bank: your offerings of food and finance feed the community.

November 19 & 20 Emergency Assistance Fund: Your contributions to our Emergency Assistance Fund allow us to offer a bit of help and hope to persons who find themselves in a time of emergency need.

November 26 & 27 United Methodist Student Day: This offering furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities.

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

*Our Gifts: The General Ministry Budget*

September Income	Year to Date Income all sources	Five Year Average Income	September Expenses	Year to Date Expenses	Five Year Average Expenses
\$77,815	\$829,901	\$822,527	\$107,622	\$980,850	\$906,263

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 0.9% above the average. Expenses are 4.3% below projected budget but 8.2% above the five year average.

Our total Apportionments commitment through September is \$172,769. The total amount paid is \$59,950. Apportionment payments are made based on cash reserves necessary to fund daily operations. We are prayerful that we will continue our apportionment payments through the end of the year.

Let us be generous givers and give thanks for the many blessings God has provided for us. Your generosity will continue to advance the mission of the church.

Blessings,

Kate Ulmer, Treasurer

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