



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

## ***The Ministry of Stewardship and Finance***

February 2012

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

***“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Philippians 4:8***

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Apostle Paul wrote these encouraging words to the church at Philippi while he was in prison and under the threat of death. He asked them to be focused upon the love of God in Jesus Christ even though they were deeply worried about him and for themselves in their own difficulties. He used himself as an example to look ahead and to keep pressing toward Christ who had made him, and them, his own.

2012 is already well underway. We are looking to the future. The mission of the UMC: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and the mission of St. Paul's UMC: to know and follow Christ and to help others know and follow Christ, is continuing forward. The Church Council in the last six months of 2011 led the way in asking all the leadership of the church, including staff, to review and retool our ministries to fulfill the mission of the UMC and St. Paul's.

Pathways for discipleship are being developed in response to the Reveal Spiritual Life Survey. This will have a specific way of shaping present and future Christian education, worship, missions, and ministry for the future.

Pastoral and program staff job descriptions have been and continue to be reshaped so that our primary work will be about growing people in life-long discipleship.

2012 and forward strategic plans for mission and ministry are being reformed with the sole emphasis upon equipping every disciple of all ages for service and witness.

The emphasis upon growing discipleship in all of us is the reason for the formation of the new membership review team and the new financial stewardship team. Discipleship in the UMC is defined by our membership vows by developing in our prayers (personal faith), presence (worship together), gifts (financial giving), service, and witness of and to Jesus Christ, inviting others with the hospitality of God's love.

Recently in a committee meeting I said that just like the use of a 1972 Buick LeSabre that gets 9 miles to the gallon of gas is not practical today, so is a church that is structured as if it is still 1972. Paul encouraged the Philippian Church to press ahead in mission and ministry. I think that Paul would say the same to us. Celebrate and learn from the past, but press ahead in making disciples for Jesus Christ because Christ has made them his own. And so, I invite your prayers and your enthusiastic partnership in these efforts. In 2012, encourage one another and newcomers to St. Paul's with the same action and attitude as Paul did for the Philippian Church!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Harlan Gillespie

**Year End 2011 Ministry of Finance Report**

*(revised)* We began 2011 with a deficit of \$234,000. Thanks to special giving and ministry cost savings made throughout the year, we finished the year with a deficit of \$ 123,654. We paid \$106,704 of the \$230,358. While they were not paid in full this is still a significant accomplishment! Conference Apportionments for 2011. Our recent history of Apportionment payments have been 2008 and prior years 100%; 2009 at 41.67% and 2010 at 90.90%; and 2011 at 46%.

**Starting Year 2012 with Great Apportionment Payment!**

*(revised)* Due to faithful and increased giving for the beginning of 2012, we have already paid over two months of Apportionments for 2012! \$40,900 has been paid for the \$231,672 Apportionments! That's a great start, St. Paul's! Way to go! Let us, in God's great abundance, continue the same through this year and into the future!

<b>2012 Scope of Ministries</b>	<b>\$1,413,990.00</b>	<b>100%</b>
Worship & Music Ministries	23%	
Congregational Care	9%	
Outreach and Missions	26%	
Christian Spiritual Formation/Education	15%	
Facilities and Maintenance	27%	
<b>2012 Estimated Income for Ministries</b>	<b>\$ 1,231,156.00</b>	
Contributions-All Giving		
Other Sources		
<b>Deficit for 2012</b>	<b>\$182,834.00</b>	
<b><i>Our Prayers &amp; Witness</i></b>		

*(revised)* So what about the deficit for 2012? The Ministry of Finance Committee is putting together teams of people to develop creative and new sources of income for ministry. The teams will provide opportunities for people to use their God-given gifts and passions to enhance the financial support for the ministry of Jesus Christ through St. Paul's. If you have a gift or talent to share in this ministry, please contact Dave Mather, chairperson of the Ministry of Finance. In addition, see page one about the newly formed Financial Stewardship Team. We invite your prayers and participation with us so that we can fully support the life-changing ministries of Jesus Christ through St. Paul's and the United Methodist Church worldwide.

**24 Hours that Changed the World – 40 Days of Devotion.** Give yourself the gift of God's love by opening your heart to the Lenten worships and study guided by Rev. Adam Hamilton's *24 Hours that Changed the World*, beginning on the first weekend in Lent, Feb 25-26. Books (\$12) and devotional readings (\$7) are available at the church office.

***Our Presence – Worshiping God***

At a Church Conference on Sunday, February 19, St. Paul's will be requesting that Matt German be appointed ¼ time for the purpose of giving him mentoring and experience in presiding at the Sacraments. Matt has been using his work as contemporary worship director at St. Paul's as a Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM) for his seminary education. St. Paul's will gain from mentoring a promising pastor for future ministry and appointments in the UMC. There are no additional costs to St. Paul's for this experience. Matt's position will still be underwritten by a new ministry development grant from the undesignated portion of the St. Paul's UMC Foundation. Thanks be to God for those who contributed to the Foundation for mission and ministry!

***Our Gifts: Recent Special Mission Offerings:***

**Linn Comm. Food Bank: \$197 plus 373 pounds** of food helping feed local hungry families.

**Human Relations Day : \$304** supporting Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs.

**Emergency Assistance Fund: \$1029** supporting an ongoing St. Paul's UMC ministry of hope and encouragement to those who find themselves in need of short-term emergency assistance.

**Thursday Lunch: \$3,761.00**

***Special Mission Offerings in the near future:***

**February 18 & 19 SPRINT (St. Paul's Reaching Out in Neighborhood Teams):** A summer ministry for children which began in 1995, designed to provide a positive, supervised environment through enrichment and educational activities.

**March 3 & 4 Linn Community Food Bank:** Bring boxed/canned goods or make a financial contribution for the Food Bank.

**March 10 & 11 Ingathering:** Begin our annual ministry of creating UMCOR kits for health, education and newborns across the globe and in the States.

**March 17 & 18 One Great Hour of Sharing:** Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in this special offering that supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to seek justice and mercy for suffering people everywhere.

**March 25 & 25 Neighborhood Meals;** Summer lunches served to area children, families and adults, supported ecumenically by several Cedar Rapids churches.

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





Neighborhood Meals Volunteers

***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
<b>\$108,937</b>	<b>\$108,937</b>	\$105,813	\$110,392	\$110,392	\$110,662

*(revised)* The above chart is a revision of the original review of monthly and annual giving year to date as compared with the five averages for income and expense. The income is comparable to the average and expenses are within budget; below the five year average.

We can rejoice in being able to pay an additional \$15,900 toward our 2011 apportionments upon completion of the December financials. In addition, based on your generosity in January, we have paid \$40,900 of 2012 apportionments.

Blessings,

Kate Ulmer, Treasurer

Finance Contacts	
St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
1340 Third Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403	
319-363-2058	
Kate Ulmer, <i>Treasurer</i>	Linda Jandik, <i>Finance Secretary</i>
kulmer@stpaulsumc.org	ljandik@stpaulsumc.org