

## **“The good news is...”**

“The good news is...” How many times have we heard our Pastor use those words with us? Do we really listen to what is shared with us after that phrase each Sunday?

Well, let me use our Pastor’s words as I give you the good news about our church. The good news is...

1. Our church is open each and every Sunday regardless of the number of people attending the morning service.
2. Our church provides meeting rooms for many organizations that would have difficulty securing a meeting place because of the nature of their meeting. Our church is truly a needed resource in meeting and serving the needs of our community members.
3. Our church was build during the Great Depression, and we think that we have it rough today!

Unfortunately the bad news is that we do not receive enough ongoing financial support to sustain our current ministry.

It has come to my attention that many people feel that our church is going to fail to meet its financial obligations in the next couple of months.

Here are some facts:

1. The groups that utilize our building donate about \$14,500.00 per year.
2. Our fundraising efforts generate about \$2,000.00 per year.
3. Our general offering received is about \$18,400.00 per year.
4. It takes approximately \$52,000.00 per year to maintain our current ministry.
5. This means that we are currently going in the red by approximately \$1,400.00 per month.
6. Our financial reserves (including memorial funds and special gifts) will help to keep us operating into the coming year.

Here are some possible options:

1. Reduce the pastor’s time/salary
2. Sell the building and use the proceeds to continue our ministry in a different location/configuration.
3. Rent out the entire building, and hold services in a different location.
4. Increase fundraising activities

## 5. Increase general fund giving

As you can see, some decisions must be made. I would like to encourage each of us to prayerfully consider what God is calling us to do and be.

If we want to see our church continue and also to thrive in our ministry, then we need to work together to come up with a plan of action. This could happen through a combination of the above options or perhaps there are additional options we have yet to discover.

Regardless of what decisions are to be made we need your input, and look forward to hearing your ideas. Please feel free to contact me in person or by phone at 442-3005, or plan to attend a listening session. The first listening session will follow worship on October 18, 2009 in the Sequoia Room.

Sincerely,

*Jerry*

Jerry Carter, Treasurer