

October 2011

Greetings to all!

The Stewardship Committee of Westminster United Church wishes to bring the following information to your attention:

1. A big thank you to all of us who have supported WUC during this time of transition by active participation and financial support. At the Annual Meeting in February 2011 we approved a budget for 2011 showing an anticipated deficit of \$33,000. We are now able to project a deficit of \$10,000 by the end of the year and a bank balance of \$41,000. How did we arrive at this much better scenario?

We had forecast that while searching for a new permanent Ministerial Team, attendance at Sunday services and offerings would experience a decline. They have but, monthly givings by the congregation have remained close to forecast. In addition, the amount forecast for salaries was higher than our actual and our rental income has increased. The congregation responded to our Special Appeal in May donating \$21,300 and the Oshawa Presbytery Church Extension Council has temporarily deferred our monthly payment of \$1,000 on our loan. Thanks to all who have worked to make this possible. This fall we will not be asking our congregants to return an estimate of givings for 2012. Rather in light of the above we ask that we all prayerfully consider our financial support of the Mission of WUC.

2. Are you on PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance)? Under PAR the dollar amount one has authorized is automatically paid from one's bank account monthly to the United Church of Canada and then forwarded to Westminster. Having this constant and guaranteed income is very helpful to us. We now have 100 families on PAR and receive \$12,000 per month. Information on PAR is available at the Welcome Table in the Narthex or at the Stewardship table in the gym after service during October.

3. We all are aware of the inadequacies of our sound system in the Sanctuary which despite the valiant efforts of our tech team members dramatically diminishes our worship experience. A professional and comprehensive assessment of the situation and how to correct it has been made and presented to your Board of Management. Our current system can be upgraded to a state of the art system at a cost of approximately \$20,000. This can be completed in stages. The first stage could be completed at a cost of approximately \$7,000. As an improved sound system will make our use of the Sanctuary so much more meaningful, we are asking that we all support a Sound System Appeal during October 2011 to raise the first \$7,000. If more money is raised than is needed, it will be held in a Sound System account so that donors will know it will be used in the future for the project they donated to and not for other operational items.

An envelope is enclosed for your prayerful contribution. Please mark your cheque for the Sound System Appeal.

Thank you and blessings to all,

Bruce Atwood, Francis McQuaid, Ed Rosdobutko, Harry Sanderson.