



THANK YOU!!

I do not know of any better words with which to begin this message. Thank you for being the incredible people of faith that you are. In so many ways, with so many examples, your love and grace towards others shines through.

Thank you.

This month I am going to address one of the easiest parts of ministry to quantify and measure. Fiscal generosity. Over those three months, CLC members donated over \$375,000.00 to CLC. Roughly \$175,000.00 went into the Capital Campaign Fund. Again, thank you. Roughly \$200,000.00 went toward the regular operational account. Thank you for that. Last December's giving accounted for about \$88,000.00 of that giving to the operational budget. That means that this January and February those two months averaged roughly \$58,000.00/month.

Unfortunately, this represents a sharp drop from years past. Over the last five years the months of January and February have averaged between a low of \$76,000.00 each and a high of \$88,000.00 each.

You can see where I am heading with this.

We are in this strange place of people being incredibly generous, but our operational funds are getting very tight. Money given to the Capital Campaign is not to be used for operational expenses, and it is not. It is being used mostly to pay down the mortgage.

When I arrived here last February, the balance was \$794,000.00. Today it sits at \$607,000.00 with the board preparing to send more of the Capital Campaign Funds to knock it down further. This is excellent news! Again, thank you!

As we pledged toward the Capital Campaign, we were asked to maintain our current giving patterns to the operational budget. It is possible that some of us moved from giving to the operational fund to the Capital fund. While you are still being wonderfully generous, please do consider keeping up giving to the operational fund. I know it is less exciting than paying off our debts and moving into new youth space, but our ministry excellence must continue in the meantime. Our operational budget is designed to receive about \$80,000.00/month when averaged over a 12 month span. Obviously some months come in at less than that, others at much more.

In the month of March your board will be in clear communication with all of you concerning these matters of joy mixed with concern. You will see messages in the E Blast on Thursdays, notes in the bulletin, and open forums following both worship services on Sunday March 16. They will have much more exact numbers, not my approximate figures shared above.

Again, no one is going to be told to give more, or that you are not being generous enough. That is clearly not the case. We just have two distinct funds, and one is getting pretty lean while the other is doing great. We can easily figure this out together.

Thank you again for your generosity, faith, and love.

Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy,

Pastor Sean