

Dear Faith Family,

While we have sounded some cautious notes over the last few months, we have had a remarkable last few weeks.

As you might remember, October Income finished at \$74,202, which was significantly higher than the previous 4 months (\$50k, \$55k, \$46k, and \$49k). It also was our first month with positive cash flow (\$5,737) since April. This reduced our deficit from \$-60k to \$-54k.

We were also very blessed in November with some unexpected income, and ended the month at \$100,433, which left us with net income of \$32,809. This further reduced our deficit to \$-21,132.

There are several things to consider when looking at all this:

First, God is faithful! Just as it is true in our personal finances, if we as a church are faithful in our stewardship, we can trust God to provide for our needs. Personally, when I return to the Lord His portion of my income (the tithe), I have confidence from scripture that God will provide for all my needs. It is an act of worship and a demonstration of trust in Him.

Second, something has clearly changed regarding giving. While Pastor Ryan has communicated our opportunity to participate in the Legacy Offering, he has also been clear regarding our operations needs. While we haven't yet reached our goal of \$75k, the \$50k+ that has already been pledged to Legacy is more than 50% higher than the last two years. At the same time, there has been a reengagement with some who had tithed but had stopped over the last year. Perhaps in our desire to bless those around us through Legacy giving, God has also demonstrated he hasn't forgot about the operational needs of the church.

Third, this last point is important given that January 1 we will start building our budget for the next fiscal year that starts in April. One of our goals in budgeting is to budget 90% of the prior years' income. Last year, with a decline in income coupled with the addition of a new staff member, we were unable to accomplish that goal. Our income goal this year is \$800k, and we are currently at \$507k. In reaching our goal, we would ensure we have adequate income to provide for our commitments and our staff. To reach this goal, we would need to average \$73,250 over the next 4 months. Would you remember to pray with us about this goal?

Our trust in the Lord isn't influenced by what is happening around us, or by what we are experiencing, good or bad. Our trust comes from knowing He sees us, He loves us, and He has demonstrated His faithfulness to us many times.

Thank you for your continuing worship through giving!

Merry Christmas!

Ron Alexander