



## THE UNITED CHURCH IN MEADOWOOD

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### *THANKSGIVING & THANKS FOR GIVING*

It is hard to believe that the year 2011 is quickly coming to an end and once again, it is time to launch our Stewardship Campaign. We are hopeful that with your continued support, we can reach our financial goals and eliminate this year's projected deficit (yes, you heard right – **deficit**). Unlike government, we cannot print money to keep our church out of the red so we must rely entirely on the generosity of our congregation. Some churches always appear to flourish better than ours; however, at the same time, they demand that their members give a certain percentage of their annual income – with no exception. We, on the other hand, ask our members to “**give as they are able**”. In 2011, we are facing a **projected deficit** of approximately **\$18,000** and expenditures are anticipated to be \$322,000 in 2012.

If each family household increased their monthly giving by a minimum of \$10 or more, our annual deficit would be eliminated and we would be able to maintain our existing programs and commitments. Also, in your giving, please consider the Mission & Service Fund and the work that it does for the wider church.

A great way to make this happen is to consider your giving or, as some people say, church collection, by using PAR (pre-authorized remittance) which would have your designated bank account debited with the amount of your monthly giving on or about the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. For you, the parishioner, this system takes away any worry about having cash available for the collection plate on Sunday morning and it makes our accounting much easier. Don't worry that someone may think you are not contributing by not putting an envelope in the collection plate, as we presently have 209 families using PAR. This method provides us with a regular monthly cash flow especially over the summer when attendance drops off significantly. During the summer the church must still pay bills and ongoing expenses. This year, we had to draw on our credit line to cover the shortfall we incurred during this period.

In past years we used proceeds from fundraisers to assist with the day-to-day operating costs of our church. We will continue to have fundraising events but it would be wonderful if we did not have to rely on fundraisers for our daily operating expenditures. We would love to see the proceeds from fundraisers used solely for improvements and beautification of our aging place of worship.

Once again, we are enclosing a Time & Talent form. We ask that you consider helping out the various committees and work of the church with your gifted talents. Without everyone's help, much of our work will be left undone.

Please take time to review and complete the enclosures. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the Unified Finance & Stewardship Committee or the church office.

THANKS FOR GIVING! We look forward to receiving your Pledge and Time and Talent forms by November 6, 2011 either by dropping them off at the church or mailing them in the envelope enclosed for your convenience.

With Appreciation and Blessings,

The 2011 Unified Finance & Stewardship Committee

