



BUDGET/FINANCE UPDATE

(As of 1-31-15)



Members: Treasurer: Jim Wind, Tammy Dew, Carolyn Mahon, Donna Mitchell, Jane Walker.

WHERE DO WE STAND

1. Monthly Budget \$ 24,027.42
2. January 2015 general fund offerings \$ 16,797.15.
3. January offerings were 69.99% of January's budget.
4. Unrestricted cash on hand as of January 31, 2015 was \$ 68,317.51.

Please be prayerful for the financial future of each other. Together we grow and prosper, and live out the plans that God has for each and every one of us.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)



Office News & Deadlines

By Debbie

Deadline for the April 2015 Newsletter is March 18th. Please email your articles to me by the deadline.



URGENT!

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Our nursery rotation for the 11:00 service has recently narrowed down to 4 volunteers, which is just one nursery worker per Sunday. We **REALLY** need to add some volunteers to our rotation.

EVERYONE PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER HELPING OUT WITH OUR NURSERY MINISTRY!!!!!!

If you would be willing to help, please contact Tammy Dew (350-6747) or the church office.



CHURCH “GET TOGETHER”

On the third Sunday night of each month at 6 pm, members and friends of the church are invited to meet at Rucker Johns Restaurant for a time of fellowship and meal. Our next Get Together will be Sunday, March 15th.

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request please email Sheila Long (sheilarose.long@gmail.com), or 620-3549), call the Church Office (458-5134), or fill out a Prayer card from the pew and drop it in the offering plate.

Concert

All youth and young adults are invited to join us for a Christian concert on Sunday, March 22 at 7 pm at Coastal Christian High School in Wilmington. *Unspoken, Jonny Diaz, and JJ Weeks Band* will be headlining the event. If we can get a group of 10 or more, then the cost is \$13 per person, but we will be doing some fundraisers to help offset that. If you would like to go, please sign your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the stairway between the sanctuary and fellowship hall. For more information, call Melinda Latta, Dara Newberry, Tammy Dew, or the church office.



Facilities/Grounds Report

If any member sees or knows of anything that needs repair or our attention concerning the buildings or grounds, please contact, Eddie Coats

Meals on Wheels



On the 4th Saturday of each month, our Missions Committee has a team that prepares and delivers meals in the community for the Meals on Wheels program. If you are interested in learning more about how this ministry works or if you would like to be a part of this ministry, contact Lori Griffin (798-5857). We now have volunteers to make desserts. Thanks to all our Meals on Wheels volunteers! We couldn't do this without you! The next opportunity to serve will be Saturday, March 28 at 10 am.



Martha's Kitchen Food Lion Pick Up

We need additional volunteers to join our Martha's Kitchen food pick-up teams. Teams are responsible for picking up the donated food from the store and delivering it to the church and putting it away in the freezers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sue Berwald (910-458-9585).



Cub Scouts

Each Monday night our church hosts Cub Scout Pack #230 at 7 pm in the Education Building. For more information on these groups, contact Scott Whitaker (392-7867)



Martha's Kitchen Pig Cooker

The cooker is available to Church Groups at no charge, but individual church members are asked to pay a rental of \$60 a day or \$80 for weekend. We do ask that you bring it back clean and tanks full. For information contact Bob Hodge 458-4302.



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flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Is 55:10-11). The angel who revealed to Mary that she would be miraculously conceiving the Messiah confirmed: “For no word from God will ever fail” (Lk 1:37). Jesus prayed: “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth” (Jn 17:17). Jesus declared: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away” (Mt 24:35). The Apostle Paul taught: “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work” (2 Tim 3:16-17, NLT). **Yes, God’s Word is true, trustworthy, and authoritative.**

From Genesis to Revelation the Bible clearly communicates the importance of not just believing God’s Word, but also obeying its directives and living by its principles. God challenged Israel: “Be careful to obey all these regulations I am giving you, so that it may always go well with you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is good and right in the eyes of the LORD your God” (Deut 12:28). Jesus taught: “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash” (Mt 7:24-27). He also declared: “Blessed . . . are those who hear the word of God and obey it” (Lk 11:28). The Disciple John exhorted: “We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, ‘I know him,’ but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them” (1 Jn 2:3-5). And James wrote: “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it - not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it - they will be blessed in what they do” (Jms 1:22-25). **It is in our best interests to submit to God’s authority and obey His commands.**

Obedience to God’s Word is not about trying to earn our salvation or prove our own righteousness. We are not saved by works or obedience, but only by faith in Jesus Christ. In fact, obeying God’s Word is more than

just submission of our wills; obedience is a matter of love and devotion. There is a direct correlation between our love for God and our obedience to His Word. Jesus taught: “If you love me, you will obey what I command. . . . Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. . . . If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. . . . He who does not love me will not obey my teaching” (Jn 14:15,21, 23,24). Similarly, the Disciple John wrote: “This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands” (1 Jn 5:2-3; 2 Jn 1:6). When we obey God’s commands, we show that we love God and that He is the Lord of our lives. But when we disobey God’s commands, we show that we love something or someone (usually ourselves) more than we love God and are not submitting to His authority.

Charles Spurgeon charged: “I would recommend you either believe God up to the hilt, or else not to believe at all. Believe this book of God, every letter of it, or else reject it. There is no logical standing place between the two. Be satisfied with nothing less than a faith that swims in the deeps of divine revelation; a faith that paddles about the edge of the water is poor faith at best. It is little better than a dry-land faith, and is not good for much” (found at sermon illustrations.com). The Bible makes it clear that God wants His followers to live our lives with a biblical worldview – to allow the Bible to be the authoritative standard for our lives. Wise King Solomon challenged: “If people can’t see what God is doing they stumble all over themselves. But when they attend to what He reveals [aka Scripture] they are most blessed” (Prov 29:18, Mes). God challenged, encouraged, and promised Joshua (and us): “Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful” (Josh 1:8). **God has given us His Word for our good. We must trust it; we must believe it; we must submit to its authority; we must obey it; and we must live it out.**

Oh that we could genuinely say along with the psalmist: “Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. . . . I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. . . . Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors. . . . The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. . . . Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. . . . How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! . . . Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart” (Ps 119:5-7,14,24,72,97, 103,111).

Always remember: God Loves You and So Do I!

Pastor Jimmy

