

July 21, 2009

Dear Members and Friends of CHCC,

Matthew 6:19-21 says: **“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*”**

Sometimes we all find ourselves storing up treasures here on earth. Let's just admit it: we all like our *“stuff”*. We have all been wonderfully blessed to live in this Country and this State. We are also blessed by all the wonderful and God-sent blessings which we have received from being associated with this magnificent church. We have countless members and staff that can attest to the impact CHCC is having on its members and the members of our community.

The other thing we know is that things are getting tough out there. The economy continues to limp along; members have been affected by reduction in force situations, reduction in hours, and reduction in wages. The impact of these changes has also impacted the current financial situation of CHCC. We have found ourselves in a very enviable position the last few years of having ample funding to expand programs, expand our staffing levels, and in turn expand our impact to the surrounding community. That ample funding is now shrinking to levels that are causing concern.

The leadership of CHCC has a policy to begin each year with 1/12 of the annual budget in *“reserve”*. For 2009 this amount was \$77,000. This reserve helps balance out the irregular contributions for monthly expense shortfalls throughout the calendar year. At the beginning of 2009, the cash balance was \$92,000. Through June, expenses have exceeded contributions by \$50,000, faster than in recent years. The current General Budget cash reserve balance for the church stands at approximately \$42,000. At this rate of expensing more than receiving, the financial situation may come to a point of not being able to maintain our ministry goals in a few short months. We have already been forced to postpone some of our intended Missions giving until later in the year when giving typically picks up.

This month and next, the Asset Management Team, the Deacons and the Consistory will be drawing up contingency plans for when/if we begin to diminish the \$42,000 mentioned above even further. Unfortunately, the contingency plans will involve reducing spending on very important activities of the church like missions and outreach, other current CHCC programs and lastly, staffing levels at the church.

We on the consistory board would like all of us to carefully consider *“where are our hearts”* over the remaining weeks of the year.

Challenge: If all 300 families that are members or regular attendees to our church would sacrifice \$15.00 per week for the remaining 23 weeks of the year and add that to their normal weekly giving, we would be able to invest an additional \$100,000 in the mission of seeking and saving the lost!!! What an amazing achievement that would be for the CHCC family. It won't be easy, but nothing worth doing is ever easy!

THE KING IS ON THE MOVE!

Sincerely, The Elder and Deacon Boards of CHCC