

# Congregational Connector

May 2017

## News from the Board of Directors

**VOTERS' ASSEMBLY – TUESDAY (May 23):** At the annual Spring Voters' Assembly (May 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge) we will initiate plans for the program year that starts July 1. Agenda items include:

- Review of Major Accomplishments in 2016 – 2017
- Election of Officers and Boards
- Ten-month Financial Report

Your attendance at this brief, but important meeting is encouraged as STL continues to move forward in fulfilling the mission and ministries God has given us.

**PREVIOUS VOTERS' ASSEMBLY:** In case you did not hear, two major decisions were made at the April Voters' Assembly. They set the stage for the upcoming year. First, the program theme for 2017-2018 will be **“Getting the WORD OUT: Reaching out and beyond, sharing the love of Jesus and his invitation to join him in his mission.”** Second, a balanced a budget of \$447,250.00, for the fiscal year that starts July 1, was approved. The budget includes a slight raise in salaries for our staff – the first since salaries were cut 10% (April 2008) and the first increase in our salary base since May 2006. It does not include expanding our staff. The budget for 2017 – 2018 also continues to pay mortgage principle and interest on schedule, and has no request for STL Foundation assistance to the General Fund. Our intention is to build up the Foundation fund and use it primarily for capital projects.

**LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE:** A special “THANK YOU” goes to all who helped with the Letter Carriers' Food Drive on May 13. The final – and biggest – load came in at 6:00 p.m. The many volunteers, who started coming around 11:00 a.m., did a great job of receiving, sorting and dating all of the food items. In total, **we received 3396 food items.** The vast majority (2479) are being placed in our Food Pantry to be distributed to those who come to our Community Outreach Saturdays.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH SATURDAYS** are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. The three ministries featured on these Saturdays (Food Pantry, Clothing Closet, and Prayer Partners) always are a great place to volunteer in service to our community. You can join us from 11:00 – 1:00 while the public is coming, or talk to the church office about how you can help with set up during the week. Or, to avoid the middle man, speak with Marilyn Redmond or Kathy Smith about the Clothing Closet, or Tim/Elizabeth Kruse or Tom/Shannon Dawda about the Food Pantry. Steve Northcott is the one to talk to about Prayer Partners.

**ROOF UPDATE:** SCHENA roofing company has been contracted, with consent of our insurance company, to replace the roof over the west classroom wing. This roof was damaged on the day of those 70 mph winds. The project has been scheduled to be done during the second week of June. The insurance company has already given us a check for 50% of the project, with the remainder to come after the project is completed. The insurance coverage also includes the temporary roof that has been in place since the storm, and all internal damage done as a result of the roof damage. Our insurance deductible (STL's investment into the project) is \$1,000.00.

**S.A.S.S.:** June 17 is the date for our Spring Soup And Sandwich Saturday. Sign-up sheets for volunteers and donations are in the narthex (or you can call the church office). Your prayers and support are appreciated as we continue to serve our community.

**NOW + NEXT Campaign:** STL has established a strong reputation in our community as a church that actively cares about people. Our ministries reach beyond our membership to extended family members, to those who live in our community, and also, through word of mouth, to many others. In fact, we have touched so many different families in the past three years alone that it has become quite difficult (or impossible) to keep up with important follow-up contacts.

This summer STL, under our theme of “Getting the Word OUT” will introduce the NOW + NEXT Campaign to encourage an increasing sense of ministry partnership among us. Please join us in praying that the Lord of the harvest will raise up workers in his harvest field.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Here is the report of our joint General Fund stewardship (family finances and congregational finances) from July 1, 2016 through April 30, 2016.

	Year to Date		
	Anticipated	Actual	April
<b>Income</b>	\$ 362,100.00	\$ 349,780.92	\$ 42,234.26
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 370,098.36	\$ 366,072.83	\$ 37,828.06
<b>Net Excess (loss)</b>	\$ (7,998.36)	\$ (16,291.91)	\$ 4,406.20

**Since the last day of April was a Sunday, and the counters make the deposit the following day, April income includes only 4 of the 5 Sundays. The income from April 30 will be a part of the May financial report.**

**Mortgage Balance: \$1,821,821.24**

(We have paid \$40,625.70 off the principal so far this fiscal year)

**Balance of loan to General Fund from the Restricted Fund: \$61,200.00**