Congregational Connector

News from the Board of Directors- December 2020

STL FINANCES: Thank you – your response to last month's bottom line article (as you can see in the financial report at the bottom) reversed the direction of congregational finances in November and reduced the budget deficit for the fiscal year by almost $2,000.00. Our prayer is that this is a trend and not just a one-month anomaly. We move into 2021 confident of our God's continued work through your on-going support – he has called us to be a caring connection to all for whom he came on Christmas, and your sacrificial service and support is an essential ingredient in our ministry of educating, growing and serving.

STL FOUNDATION FINANCES: On January 1, 2020 total assets in the STL Foundation were $1,078,575.00. They dipped down to $936,408 at the end of March. In October a grant of $40,000.00 was given to STL for capital projects. Assets on November 30 were up to $1,180,639.00 – that is an increase of 9.5% for the year, and up 26% from the end of March.

YEAR-END APPEAL: In the next week you will be receiving a mailing from STL reminding you of the many different ways you can provide financial support to the mission and ministry of STL. Many tax laws and regulations have changed this year, so do your homework. We urge everyone to be wise stewards as you plan your year-end giving and your generous support in 2021. Psalm 23 is a great prayer to use as you enter into this process.

STL BOARD MINISTRIES: **Community Service** – 26 families came through the Clothing Closet on December 12 and we are now keeping it available throughout the month. At least 80 families will be helped with holiday food baskets … thanks to your generous support and a couple groups of dedicated volunteers. **Engagement** – new virtual ministries on Monday evenings (Hymn Sing-along with Tony), Wednesday mornings (Prayer Vigil with Emma and Tony) and Wednesday evenings (Advent CHRISTMAS CAR-oling) are creatively connecting and encouraging a wide audience during the pandemic. **Elders** – New ESV Bibles will soon be purchased for all FHL classrooms and a project designed to learn how to better connect with those between the ages of 18-30 has begun. **Resources** – The updated alarm system has been ordered and the paperwork for a $2,500.00 grant from CEF will soon be in the mail. **Staff** – Behind the scenes they are supporting the Boards with their ministries and reaching out with encouragement in many directions.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP: Christmas Eve services will again be at 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. – with the 4:00 p.m. broadcast live on Facebook and the STL website. Christmas morning worship is at 9:30 … and New Year's Eve at 5:00 p.m. **We are asking that any group larger than five who wishes to sit together on Christmas Eve at 4:00 make a reservation so we can reserve a space for them.** SPREAD THE WORD.

JANUARY VOTERS: Hear all the latest information and get your questions answered on Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Here is the report of our joint General Fund stewardship (family finances and congregational finances) for the first five months of fiscal year 2020-2021. All bills are current and we are functioning with a healthy "cash available" balance. The hold on repaying our loan to the restricted account continues.

	November 2020		Year to Date	
	Anticipated	**Actual**	**Anticipated**	**Actual**
Income	$ 41,500.00	$ 37,703.10	$ 192,170.00	$ 166,827.25
Expense	$ 41,224.99	$ 35,794.39	$ 195,094.95	$ 180,461.27
Net Excess (loss)	$ 275.01	$ 1,908.71	$ (2,924.95)	$ (13,634.02)

The Restricted Fund Balance is $100,823.77, with $4,750.00 unavailable for use.

Mortgage Balance - $1,731,952.98, **Restricted Loan -** $15,050.00