

The Word



August 2009

St. Thomas United Methodist Church

In this space last month, I mentioned some of the challenges that face us as a congregation. As we move through these summer months, I find it necessary to focus again on one of those areas and provide a little more detail than before. In last month's article, I mentioned our dilemma of our bank balance having only a few hundred dollars when our "bills due" exceed \$30,000.00. This awkward financial position we find ourselves in is NOT due to anyone being derelict in their duties. We have very highly capable persons handling our monies and preparing the necessary reports. It is due to the factors lifted up previously and to the fact that we no longer have a preschool utilizing our building, which provided additional funds for our budget.

While our Board of Trustees is exploring ways to seek out other "income producing entities" to utilize our building, we must uphold our end of the responsibility as well. Each of us has a vital part to play in the overall work of the church. And sometimes we have to step up and go "the extra mile". With our economy in the shape that it is, this is certainly not an easy endeavor. But we are reminded that we serve a God who provides in an abundant manner and does not focus on scarcity. Our response to that outlook must continue to be one of faithfulness and trust. Trust in God to provide for our needs even when it seems impossible to do.

On the following page is just a broad summary of our income and expenses. We were 50% through our fiscal year when these calculations were made. Take a look at what we have done thus far.



INCOME AND DISBURSEMENTS
January 1 through June 30, 2009

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Year to date</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Pledged	\$73,908.00 (43%)	\$171,500.00
Unpledged (loose plate)	19,132.00 (48%)	40,000.00
Other (building use, interest)	1,234.00	3,350.00
Specials & fund raisers	<u>2,339.00</u>	<u>12,600.00</u>
Total	\$97,213.00	\$227,450.00

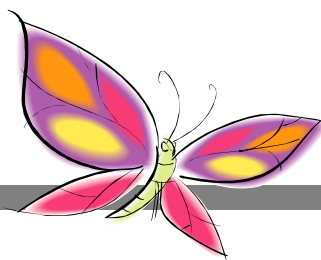
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>Year to date</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Apportionments	\$ 4,016.00	\$24,096.00
Program & office expense	3,598.00	14,175.00
Maintenance (utilities, repairs, etc.)		
Church	25,217.00	46,170.00
Parsonage	2,456.00	8,250.00
Parsonage Mortgage	4,290.00	8,580.00
(Outstanding balance on this mortgage = \$101,320.39)		
Staff and benefits	<u>55,480.00</u>	<u>128,985.00</u>
Total	\$95,057.00	\$230,256.00

The above summary does not include our giving for mission related projects. This money is considered "designated funds" because it is used (disbursed) only for the particular items for which it is received, i.e. Blanket and Tool Sunday, Humboldt Park Mission Project, P.A.D.S., etc. As of June 30th, we have received \$3,838.61 for our various mission projects. Thank you so much for your faithfulness.

We indeed are at a critical juncture financially. Our economy places interesting demands and dilemmas on us. But more than anything, the foundation of who we are and whose we are says to us over and over again....."Yes We Can!" Let us step up to the challenge and step into the future God has prepared for us.

Blessings and peace.

Pastor Danita



NOTES FROM MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM...

New Photo Directory coming...

To get the new Photo Directory on its way, photographers will be at the church on Friday September 25 and Saturday September 26. Please plan on getting your photo taken at that time. We can't have the directory without you!

Allison Altman and Mavis Koopman will be contacting you to arrange appointment times. Can't be here one of those days, please let us know when you could be available and other arrangements will be made.

No Email? Need Information?...

Well, Membership & Evangelism Work Area wants to be sure you stay in touch with what is happening at the church.

- *The weekly announcements, that are sent by e-mail, are also printed and available for pick up on Sunday mornings.*
- *The WORD newsletter continues to be published monthly and can also be picked up at the church. Those copies that are not picked up are then mailed out.*

If you have been missing information, please contact Nancy Calhoon by phone #630-790-2126. We want you to be "in the know."

A Sad Note... Family and friends of STUMC member Jim Cody were saddened to hear of Jim's passing earlier this summer.

Please...

...invite someone to come to church or to a church sponsored event!

...welcome your friends and neighbors to church some Sunday morning. Sign up to be a greeter on the signup sheet on the shelf in the narthex!

Thank you from your Membership and Evangelism Team

GLEN ELLYN FOOD PANTRY ...Your Opportunity to Help

August is not only our month to provide donations of monies and food for the expanding of the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, but it is also the month that all churches are asked to support the Jewel Shop and Share Days. Days designated for this program are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 3-5, 10-12, and 17-19.

Shopping at Jewel on any of those days using the coupons available in the STUMC narthex will earn money for the food pantry that will be used to purchase gift certificates for the Thanksgiving turkey boxes.

Please pickup a list of the items needed by the pantry and some Shop and Share coupons from the shelf in the narthex.

-- Carol Johnston

UMW MEETINGS RETURN

Our UMW meetings will begin again in September. Our first meeting for the year will be on Monday, September 14, at 7:00 p.m. This is our traditional appetizer meeting when we each bring an appetizer to share. All women are welcome to join us. We will meet at the home of Pastor Danita, 3 S 147 Mulberry Lane, Glen Ellyn. Along with our appetizer we are each to bring a picture (if possible) of a woman we admire, or who has had an influence in our life, and be able to tell a little bit about her.

Also, our August Ladies Lunch Out will be on Tuesday, August 25th, at Carlucci's, 1801 Butterfield Rd., Downers Grove. Time: 11:30. Please call Dolores Koopman, 630-469-5747, if you plan to attend.

-- Dolores Koopman, Secretary

And mark your calendars right now for future meetings at 7:30 p.m. with more details to follow in the coming months:

October 12 th	November 9 th
December 14 th	January 11 th



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



July 20-24 St. Thomas was transformed into an outdoor camp, Camp Edge. I hope you were all able to view the church last Sunday. About 20 kids enjoyed Camp Edge, taking Trek each day to visit important places and persons in the Bible.



On Monday the kids attending took a Trek to the Promised Land and learned about Joshua. The Pledge for Monday was "God is with me. I will stay close to God." On Tuesday they took a Trek to Bethlehem by following the same star the Wise men followed. The Pledge was "God guides me. I will follow." Wednesday, they Trekked to the Pharisee's House to have a meal with Jesus. The Pledge was "God teaches me. I will learn." Thursday, it was off to the Upper Room where they learned the meaning of serving and doing for others. The pledge was "God loves me. I will love God and others." Friday on their Bible trek, the children discovered what happened to Jesus after the last supper and met Mary just after discovering that Jesus was not in the tomb. The pledge was "God sends me. I will go."



Each day they learned the lesson by participating in arts, Bible stories, recreation, music and Science/Discover time. The children really enjoyed the week.
-- Martha Lobb
Director of Camp

BOOK BUDDIES SELECT SEPTEMBER READ

Book Buddies has selected the book [My Sister's Keeper](#), by Jodi Picoult, as it's next book for discussion. A synopsis of the book states: "My Sister's Keeper examines what it means to be a good parent, a good sister, a good person. Is it morally correct to do whatever it takes to save a child's life... even if that means infringing upon the rights of another? Is it worth trying to discover who you really are, if that quest makes you like yourself less?"

One reviewer writes: "Expect to be kept up all night by Picoult's latest novel, but it's much more than a page-turner; it's a fascinating character study framed by a complex, gripping story... Told in alternating perspectives by the engaging, fascinating cast of characters, Picoult's novel grabs the reader from the first page and never lets go. This is a beautiful, heartbreaking, controversial, and honest book."

Plan to read this book and join our discussion on September 18th at the Thorpe's home.

Remember the Mission Outreach
FUNdraiser
 To benefit "Nothing But Nets"

August 30th, after church
 Ice Cream Cones
 Ice Cream Sundaes
 Cookies

Games, Games, Games!

**FROM THE WORSHIP
 COMMITTEE...**

John 15:12 This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

While being the Storyteller for Vacation Bible School two weeks ago, this was a verse that was the theme of the day. The Bible story was about the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his Disciples. Jesus surprised the Disciples by kneeling before each one of them and washing their feet. It was hard for the Disciples to grasp the meaning of Jesus' actions and it was difficult for the children to understand why Jesus did this for his friends. What is the meaning in this story for you?

Worship during August will center around some popular movies that you may have seen. Pastor Danita, a movie fan herself, will talk about 5 different ones:

- Week 1: The Bucket List
- Week 2: Lion King
- Week 3: Great Debaters
- Week 4: Kung Fu Panda
- Week 5: tbd

Worship continues at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday during August at St Thomas UMC.

That is not much time out of a whole week to focus on worshipping God and being especially aware of our spiritual need to communicate with God. Come and join the congregation for time away from work and busyness of the world so you can recharge yourself for each new day. Think about how you can show Jesus' love as you go through each day.

-- Sally Grenzow

GOING GREEN

Check out the announcement about recycling your newspapers and other papers in the new recycling bin in the church parking lot. Encourage your friends and neighbors to bring theirs too---or you could be really nice and offer to bring theirs! Our church budget can gain some change from this project so please help the church and our environment by recycling.

**STUMC TO HOST HEALTH
 SCREENING THAT COULD
 SAVE YOUR LIFE!**

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive, painless health screenings here at the church on **Wednesday, August 26, 2009**.

Screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; and atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat, which is closely tied to stroke risk.

Register for the Stroke, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm Package for \$139. All four screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Your Health is in Your Hands, so please call 1-888-653-6441 for more information or to pre-register.

MANY HANDS...
Partners in Process

Thanks to those who lend their hands to the tasks to be done at St. Thomas each Sunday.

Please signup for any openings in this schedule on the sheet on the shelf in front of the bulletin board in the narthex.

Fellowship Table for August:
Mission Outreach

August 2

Liturgist:
Greeters: Jung & Jane Suh
Ushers: Dave & Kathy Kuphal
Dave Thorpe
George Graham
Counters: Dave Kuphal & Betty Veihman
Altar Flowers:

August 9

Liturgist:
Greeters: Lois Baker & Esther Sachtleben
Ushers: Al Pearson
Barbara & John Skarha
George Graham
Counters: Tim Martin & Lynn Rumbaugh
Altar Flowers:

August 16

Liturgist: Martha Blumer
Greeters:
Ushers: Sally Hatcher
Mary Umberger
George Graham
Tim Martin
Counters: Judy Anderson & Larry Horn
Altar Flowers:

August 23

Liturgist: Carol Johnston
Greeters:
Ushers: Janet Gilbreath
Larry Horn
Nancy Leguizamón
Loni Burdi
Counters: Martha Blumer & Nola Altenhoff
Altar Flowers:

August 30

Liturgist:
Greeters:
Ushers: George Graham
Al Pearson
Steve Weaver
Counters: Dave Kuphal & Betty Veihman
Altar Flowers:



ADULT & KIDS' GAMES, PRIZES

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL
&
TALENT SHOW**

THINGS NEEDED:

SALADS
VEGGIE TRAYS
BRATS
HAMBURGER
HOT DOGS
BUNS
CHIPS
COLE SLAW or
FAVORITE RECIPE

COME ONE, COME ALL!!

SAVE THE DATES

Additional events planned by the Fellowship Committee include:

August 24
Kane County Cougars Game

November 22
Thanksgiving Dinner

...with more fun activities in the works.

MOVIE NIGHTS

Join us for Movie Nights through the months of August during which time Pastor Danita will be preaching on the themes presented in the movies. Starting at 7:00 p.m., Friday at homes of the members and Saturday night at STUMC. If you want to bring a snack to share, check with the home hostess or Martha Blumer for the Saturday nights at church. Sign up in the narthex

July 31 Grenzows
 August 7 Calhoons
 August 14 Browns (Thom and Juanita)
 August 21 Bryants
 August 28 Zwierleins

WOMEN'S WELLNESS WEEKEND

Our weekend of rest, fellowship, and fun for all the women of St. Thomas is scheduled for October 9-11 this year. Please plan to join us for a wonderful time at the Racine Dominican Retreat Center in Wisconsin. This center has individual sleeping rooms and is handicapped accessible. Registration Forms and an information letter will be sent out in August and additional Registration Forms will be available at church at that time.

The women who volunteered to plan this year's retreat are: Lisa Rivers, Pam Manzke, JoAnn Foss, Mary Kay Sheldon, Sally Grenzow, Nancy Leguizamon, Martha Blumer (worship), and Norma Thorpe (administration). This committee will be meeting in early August to finalize the theme for the weekend and to plan some fun times.

A Vital St. Thomas Ministry

Did you know that once every month people from St. Thomas go to the Westmont Convalescent Center, at 6501 S. Cass Ave. in Westmont, to conduct a Protestant Worship Service there? Currently, Jo Ann Foss and George Littlefield are bringing a monthly time of worship to the convalescent center's

grateful residents. Jo Ann is at the piano, in charge of hymn-singing, George delivers the sermonette. The whole service takes place in less than an hour, but it means so much to the residents. About once every three months, Pastor Danita joins the worship service to administer Holy Communion. That's something really special for everyone!

George and Jo Ann would appreciate it very much if some other St. Thomas volunteers would come along each month to bring God's message to the convalescent center residents. Perhaps you would like to help sing hymns, deliver a short talk, or just show the residents that St. Thomas cares about them. Interested? Just call George Littlefield at 630-424-0140 for full details. He and Jo Ann would appreciate any help you can offer!



Bible Readings for the Month

August 2

2 Samuel 11: 26-12; 13a
 Psalm 51
 Ephesians 4: 1-16
 John 6: 24-35

August 9

2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33
 Psalm 130
 Ephesians 4: 25-5: 2
 John 6: 35, 41-51

August 16

1 Kings 2: 10-12; 3: 3-14
 Psalm 111
 Ephesians 5: 15-20
 John 6: 51-58

August 23

1 Kings 8: 22-30, 41-43
 Psalm 84
 Ephesians 6: 10-20
 John 6: 56-69

August 30

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13
 Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9
 James 1: 17-27
 Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Word

St. Thomas U M C

St. Thomas United Methodist Church

2 S 511 Route 53

Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

(630) 469-1214