

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

LOOKING AT BUDGETS: for 2018 and 2019

In the last few weeks I have been working with Bill Alsman (Hope's Administration and Finance elder) on the 2019 budget. (Hope's Session will approve the 2019 budget in early January.) *Here's a Shout Out to Bill Alsman; he serves the church faithfully and well.*

Good News: Your pledges to next year's budget are strong. And there is good investment interest from the Highland Fund that can provide additional income to the 2019 budget, if the Session approves using it that way. We will report on this more fully at the Annual Meeting on January 27, 2019, after year-end financial reports are available.

Not-So-Good News: The 2018 budget will likely end in the hole, possibly by \$10,000 to \$15,000. Reason: pledges were strong, but the Session anticipated much stronger Unpledged Income for 2018 than was received. Therefore the 2018 budget allowed more expense, notably in Mission, than we might have otherwise. That leaves a significant deficit for this year. *If you can give an additional gift as the year ends it would be helpful and much appreciated.*

We have done much work around the property this year. Many of these expenses have been paid from the Highland Facility Fund not from the budget.

(continued)

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY NEWS



December 23, 2018

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – will be tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m. Invite family and friends to join us for the Christmas story, carols, communion and candlelight. A Night of Blessings!

POINSETTIAS – The lovely plants will decorate the sanctuary on today and tomorrow and can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.

OUR CHRISTMAS GIVING -- Hope's gifts to the families at Grace House were delivered last Wednesday. We were able to provide 110 gifts. This included items for 37 children in 20 families, with a card and a small Publix gift card for each family. The delivery took three vehicles: the one van completely full! Good work, Hope!

Also our Mission Ministry was able to provide funding for three specially-equipped therapy bicycles for people with special needs. Mary Ellen Nichols saw lots of tears of joy as bikes were presented to those who need them so badly.

WNA -- Wednesday Night Alive will take a break for the next two weeks. We will start the 2019 season with a Pot Luck dinner on January 9, then prepared meals the other three Wednesday nights. Come join us!

“God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supplies.”

Hudson Taylor

Remember, the Session set aside \$250,000 from the sale of Highland's property to meet Hope's facility needs. First priorities were a) the roof over classrooms, office and Hambley Hall, b) replacements of some aging air conditioner units, c) and a new sign (now being made and soon to be installed). Next will be renovation in the sanctuary: flooring, bathrooms, etc. We hope to get to this early in 2019. Obviously, the Highland Facility Fund is a real blessing.

Three other Highland Funds have been designated 1) to support Hope's commitment to Mission, 2) to help the church call a full-time pastor, and 3) to provide an endowment fund to meet future needs. While these Highland Funds do not flow into the annual budget, those funds will it possible for Hope to do much we could not otherwise do: for mission, for the facilities, for a new minister.

This good church reflects your commitment to God. Your giving to the church is what keeps our ministry strong and growing.

THANK YOU for all you do, for all you give, and for all you say to support Hope Presbyterian.

Blessings in this holy time, Ginny



CHURCH EVENTS COMING UP

Monday	12/24	06:00 a.m.	Christmas Eve service
Wed.	12/26	05:45 p.m.	No WNA
		07:00 p.m.	No Bells practice
		07:30 p.m.	No Choir practice

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING – will be held on Sunday January 27 at the close of worship. This meeting takes a look at the previous year's ministry. Members will be able to ask questions about the budget, the pastor search, and we will elect a new Officer Nominating Committee.

JOY GIFT AT CHRISTMAS -- The Presbyterian Christmas Joy Gift is received today and next Sunday. This gift supports retired ministers and missionaries and their families as they have need, and also benefits some of the Presbyterian colleges and schools. Your gift makes a difference! Checks can be made out to Hope and marked "Joy Gift" on the memo.

SNOW BIRDS / SUN CATCHERS -- (Ginny Ellis likes to call our seasonal folks "Sun Catchers.") Welcome back! It is a delight to see folks again and hear your news. Be sure that we have your contact information, and please join in to any and all of the church activities that fit your schedule. We love each of you!

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