

St. Andrew By-The-Sea UMC and Hurricane Matthew - Update

Hurricane Matthew impacted our church just as many of us were personally impacted. The church suffered some damage to the facilities (nothing that can't be repaired); its schedule was interrupted; and like a lot of people - both extra expenses and some loss of income have adversely impacted our finances. With this update we would like to let you know what has happened to our facilities, our schedule and our finances.

For those who have been by the church office since the storm you have definitely seen where we had flooding issues in the administrative offices. Somewhat fortunately - we have been through this drill before. We have insurance coverage that will help in the restoration, yet we will bear some of the expense related with the repair. At this point, we do not have firm repair cost or insurance reimbursement information, but expect the unreimbursed portion of the unbudgeted expenditures will be at least \$10,000.

Associated with the evacuation we did not have services at either location one Sunday in October. Additionally, we decided as a result of the disruption, to defer our annual Consecration Sunday stewardship drive until February 2017 when it can be given the amount of attention and effort that it truly deserves. These two things are having a very big impact on financial planning.

In the month of October our revenues were \$38,097 below our budgeted amount and expenditures were \$3,566 greater than budgeted, producing a deficit for the month of (\$41,663). The somewhat mitigating part of this picture is we were deprived of worship services and the associated collections. When you look at our year-to-date figures we have a deficit of (\$37,534) through October 31, 2016. So a case can be made that most of our deficit is associated to the anomalies of October.

The next part of the update is very critical to our church, our operations and our missions. We have a little under one month left in our fiscal year. For those who were disrupted in their giving, we encourage you to made all endeavors you can to resume your periodic giving and catch-up where you can. For those who are in a position to make a one-time gift to help recover from a once in a 50-year event - your support will be most appreciated and helpful at a critical juncture.

How we respond this last month of the year will greatly impact how we set the budget for next year. Since the stewardship campaign will not occur until February, our prior year results will be our guide until we have enough financial commitments from the congregation with which to build a valid budget. As it stands right now we are projecting to have to go into our reserves for about \$50,000 in order to meet our obligations for this year.

As you can see the church is operating on faith that we will have the resources that are required to provide the programs, the opportunities and the missions that define who and whose we are. Just as the Fall Festival carried on in spite of the difficulties it faced and had spectacular results, I have no doubt the whole congregation will rise to the call with our finances.

We face many challenges, and opportunities, in the next few months as we answer the call of God and how we wish to share our Blessings towards His works. I look forward to helping in this very important task.

James E. Gresham
Chairman of the Finance Committee - 2017

Please Note: For any donations to be reflected on your church statement as a 2016 contribution, IRS regulations require they be received by the church by Friday, December 31– our last business day OR be postmarked by December 31. All items in the collection plate on Sunday, January 1, 2017 will be reported as gifts in 2017.