



October 30, 2015

Dear Friends and Family of Christ Presbyterian Church,

Exactly ten years ago today, Christ Presbyterian Church worshipped together for the first time! It has been and continues to be an immense privilege for me to serve as your pastor. I am grateful to you for your partnership in the work of the kingdom, and I appreciate the time you spend reading and praying about the news that the session shares with you in these quarterly letters about the finances of the church.

I'm pleased to share some *good news* with you in this update. We began the fourth quarter of our fiscal year having exceeded our budgeted goal for income. Primarily, this is due to higher than expected giving in March and July. Our monthly giving for the other months of the year has actually been slightly lower than what we budgeted for, but the end result is that you have given above and beyond what we expected so far this year. Thank you for that!

Unfortunately, our expenses have exceeded our budgeted expectation by more than \$5,000 so far this year. The extra expense is largely due to help we have given to families in our congregation who faced financial and medical crises this year. By going above what we had budgeted to spend in our "mercy" category, we have been able to assist families in our church in their time of need. We have been *tangible expressions of the love of God* to these men, women, and children who we are privileged to call our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

As you plan your giving for the last two months of this year, please remember that we need about \$14,500 per month in offerings in order to do the work that God called us to do ten years ago today. As our church has grown, the work has grown, and your chance to participate in that work has grown, too. Please prayerfully consider how you can generously support the work of the church as the year comes to a close. As I often remind you, income that goes above and beyond what we expect allows us to work toward future goals like a full-time associate pastor, a building of our own, additional missions opportunities, and creative outreach into our community.

Before I close, I want to let you know about some changes that we are working toward in our budgeting process for next year and the years to come. After meeting with a representative of a financial institution that specializes in lending money to churches for building purchases, the session determined to work toward two goals. **First, we want to begin saving approximately 10% of our yearly income so that in the future we can show a bank that we regularly live "within our means."** We have



not always done that and sometimes the session has even approved a deficit budget in order to achieve a particular ministry goal. We do not plan to do that any more. Please pray for us that we can structure our budget in such a way that we can save this money and still be faithful to the work God has for us.

Second, we are working toward an even distribution of our budget so that 30% of our expenses will be staff related, 30% will be facility related, 30% will be ministry related, and 10% will be administrative in nature. It will take us a few years to reach this goal because our income isn't great enough to put 30% toward a facility and 30% toward ministry expenses, but banks consider this distribution to be a sign that a church is in good financial health.

Why do I mention these goals? Because I want you to know that we are *planning for the future*. We do not want to get into a "ministry rut," where every year looks like the year before. The session is working hard to ensure that our church continues to grow and develop so that we can celebrate in ten more years what the Lord has done in us and through us. You, of course, play a key role in making sure that happens. By your sacrificial giving to the church, we are able to meet these budget goals more quickly, which then allows us to move forward with purchasing or leasing our own facility, assisting more missionaries, and engaging more people here in our own backyard with the good news of the gospel.

Once again, thank you for your support so far this year. Please review your giving to the church as you enter into the last two months of the year and catch up if you have fallen behind what you set out as a goal to give. If God has put you in a position where you can give even more than what your purposed to give at the beginning of the year, please know that your funds are being put to good use and we will continue to be wise stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us.

I am looking forward to our anniversary celebration on Sunday. We'll have almost everyone who calls Christ Presbyterian Church "home" there on Sunday! It's sure to be a fun event filled with reflection on the great things God has done and continues to do through this church.

In Christ,

Eric Landry