

Pastor's News & Church Reports...

The Pastor's Message

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end of the year it was down to about \$16,000. That number is approximate as of this writing and it includes a balance owed to the Ministry Shares we send to the Annual Conference. As you can see, we made great strides in reducing the deficit. To go from a projected deficit of \$72,000 to \$16,000 in one year is a significant accomplishment.

The Stewardship Program showed very encouraging results for 2010. Those who turned in Estimate of Giving cards increased their commitments for 2010 by 17.2%. When added to the forecasts for other income, the Finance Committee will be recommending a balanced budget to the Administrative Council for the first time in about six or seven years.

A note to those who choose not to turn in Estimate of Giving cards: ***It's okay***. While we would prefer that everyone turn in cards as it makes the Finance Committee and Administrative Council's tasks a bit easier, we understand that everyone may not want to do that. If any of you got the feeling that you were being pressured to do something you really don't want to do, we apologize. Please put it down to the urgency of the financial situation, our love for this church and our desire to continue serving our Lord through MUMC.

We still have a difficult road ahead of us, but God will continue to bless this congregation for its commitment, love, and generosity. We, in turn, can go about the ministry of the church with renewed energy and a sharpened vision so that we can share those blessings with others.

I want to extend my thanks to our former treasurer, **Jeff Haffeman**, who did a faithful job of handling the church's resources under very difficult circumstances. Thanks too, to **Rich Smus**, former chair of the Finance Committee for his advice and counsel through the year. Others who have worked hard at making things better include our new treasurer, **Donna Cummins**, our new Finance Chair, **Sandy Whitten**, **Doug Goudsward** who was instrumental in completing our Annual Audit, and finally to **Mel Hooper**, our very hard-working Financial Secretary. Thanks are also extended to **Andrea Jacobs**, chair of the SPRC for her strong leadership and to our **Lay Leaders Judy Lipke** and **Dave Moore** who kept everyone focused and on task.

Thanks be to God for the progress we have made and for the exciting future God has in store for the congregation of MUMC. We have come a long way in one year, but we have to keep our resolve strong so that with God's grace 2010 will be a great year.

***Grace and Peace,
Glenn Ferguson***

2009 GIVING STATEMENTS

MUMC 2009 Giving Statements will go out the first week in February. Those of you who have previously approved electronic transmission will receive your statement by email sent under High Confidentiality with the subject "2009 Final Giving Statement." Please ensure that our transmissions are not blocked by your service provider. We estimate these transmissions will save the Church about \$55 in postage, paper, ink (toner) and envelopes.

Giving Statements should be received on or by February 15, 2010. If you haven't received your statement by that date, please call Mel Hooper at (732) 241-6508 or email webmaster@middletownumcnj.org.

I take this opportunity to echo the sentiments of our Pastor Glenn, thanking those leaving posts who did all they could to help me report accurately to you, and welcoming those entering their positions whom I look forward to working with.

***Respectfully submitted,
Melvin E. Hooper, Financial Secretary
On Behalf of the MUMC Finance Committee***