

Changes are Being Made

As we begin the year of 2010, It will be important for you to take note of the changes that will be made during this year. Tough financial times have required us to make some important changes to try and save money. In our attempt to be better stewards of the Lord's money we have made cuts which will effect us all.

One of the first things that are going to change is that we are going to quarterly newsletters. Sending out newsletters is very expensive and it takes much work to put them together. We live in a digital age and it is important that people utilize the internet if you have a computer. Getting on our website is easy and all of the same information is right there as well. The church calendar will still be updated each month. The only difference is that you will just have to see it online. For those who do not have computers, there has been discussion about creating hardcopies for those people who ask for them.

Another important change is that the secretarial hours are being cut from 35 hours to 24 hours a week. Sharon will begin working from home, after the first of the year, but she will still have the ability to check emails and phone messages. Sharon was very open to these changes and we appreciate the sacrifices that she has been willing to make. Our custodial services were also cut and we will maintain the cleanliness of our church on a volunteer basis. I want it to be made known that these cuts were not made without great discussion at our last business meeting. Also, these changes do not have to be permanent. We will gladly reverse some of these changes

if our financial situation were to turn around.

Let me also share from financial facts which need to be heard by all. From December 2008 of last year until November 2009, our monthly operating income has only covered a month's expenses one time. We average about a \$4,200 dollar shortfall every month. If we continue on this path, in two years we will deplete the fund that we are utilizing to make up the difference. That money was to be utilized for other purposes and we need to live within our means. It is my opinion that construction in our new sanctuary area must be put on hold until we get our financial situation in order. Hopefully, these changes will refocus our attention.

Tough times do not mean that we stop being responsible for the ministries of the church. I am excited to share that we will begin an elementary/junior high youth group on Sunday afternoons. This will begin on January 10, 2010 and it will go from 4-5:30 p.m. We are blessed to have disciples in this church who feel called to this ministry. Other ministries in this church will continue as well. 2010 must be the year where we grow together and seek God's will for this church. God will bring us through, if we will just seek his ways, because his ways are not our ways. God's plans are better than ours and we need to get ready. We need to come together so that we will become the church that the Lord needs in Aurora, Indiana.

Pastor Bill

Cultivating good habits

Entering a new year is a good time to inventory our habits – the bad ones as well as the good. Greek philosopher Aristotle once opined on this subject: "Moral excellence comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts. We become temperate by doing temperate acts. We become brave by doing brave acts."

Just so, we will become faithful lovers of God by seriously worshipping and faithfully following the Christian way of life. Attending corporate worship, learning more about Christianity, doing good deeds for others and participating in fellowship events are all good habits. They enhance your life and bring joy to people around you.

