

As I write this, it's the second day of September, it's supposed to be hot today, the dogs want to go out and play, and I'm late with this article. Sounds about right.

Also, Hali and I have taken over from Lindsey Stevenson as Business Manager and Financial Controller respectively, and Lindsey is now the Council Treasurer. This change largely means we have replaced Lindsey with two people, which again sounds about right.

- Hali is doing the communications portion of the job, and will handle routine financial transactions like arranging for services, opening the mail, entering payables, and entering receipts.
- I am doing financial oversight such as reviewing Hali's transactions (the old two person rule), printing and signing the checks, bank reconciliation, payroll, forecasting and budgeting, and financial reporting. It's not unlike what I did as business manager from approximately 2002 to 2012, when the church secretaries and a group of volunteers did the first entry on many things and I signed off.

One of my goals is to get you more timely financial information. I would like to have the monthly financial statements done by the first full weekend of the following month, and send out a summary in the next e-blast. It was not possible for Lindsey to make that schedule and also handle the church communications and the day to day financials, particularly since the staff considers the payroll schedule not flexible.

Speaking of financials, I have Lindsey's July financials to share with you. There hasn't been a weekend yet in September so I'm not late with August yet.

- Total income for July was \$53,500 and we had planned \$44,600. This is good, of course, but the numbers include some investment income which is not directly under our control, some large pledges being paid earlier than usual. We're thankful, but I'd sort of like to see some fall numbers before I declare the money bin open. Steve, that means you; stay out of the money bin.
- Total income for the first three months of the fiscal year is \$180,100 and we had planned \$165,400. Previous comments apply.
- Spending May thru July was \$183,100 and we had planned \$200,300. After doing the arithmetic that puts us \$3,100 in the red, where we had expected a \$34,900 loss.

The balance in the building renovation fund is around \$770,000, with some \$800,000+ in pledges yet to be fulfilled this year or next. Our million dollar construction loan commitment from the Presbyterian Investment Loan Program is in place, but construction has not yet started due to no building permit. The current issue is that the County thinks we should remediate asbestos in the office building ceiling, and we claim that since we are not touching that building the asbestos is enclosed, is not a hazard, and can be left alone. That remediation would be pricey. Jack Dunn is working on issues like these every day and will supervise the construction effort for us.

Another of my goals, once construction starts, is to get you updates weekly in the e-blast. Particularly financial updates. It's the nature of such things that it will always be a work in progress because there will always be invoices in the pipeline that haven't reached Hali and me yet, as well as construction loan draws in the works. But I'll do what I can, and poor Hali will try to enforce deadlines on me.

What else would be helpful? Let me know.

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