



January 26, 2010

Dear Church Family,

RE: CHURCH BUILDING DEBT REPAYMENT

I would like to make you aware of a challenge we are facing at the present time concerning the repayment of our loan on the building:

In 2009, offerings to support this repayment fell short of the amount of the payments by over \$20,000.

Background

Construction on our current sanctuary was completed in 2003. To finance this building, the Church borrowed \$1.8 Million. Because of volunteer labor and by managing the project carefully, along with funds raised prior to construction, this was far less than its cost, not to mention the value. Nevertheless, the payment is just over \$14,000 per month. The original note was for 20 years. We have made a few extra payments, but still have 12 years remaining on the loan with a balance at year end of \$1.3 Million.

The Blessing

We have a fabulous place to worship and are able to host many church and community events in our facility. God has blessed us with many new people who connect to God every week here at SPBC. During 2009, despite a very difficult economy, offerings to our General Fund increased 7% over 2008 offerings and our General Fund was able to operate in the black.

The Problem

Offerings to the Building Fund have declined each of the past two years. We are discovering that many of the folks who attend here are not aware of the Building Fund. Only about 1 out of 3 people who contribute to God's work here support the Building Fund.

The Solution

If everyone who is currently giving to the Building Fund would increase your gifts by 5% and if everyone who is not currently giving to the Building Fund would begin with an average gift of \$25 per month, the problem would be solved. Pray about it, please! What would God have your family to do?

Word of Caution

Please do not redirect your General Fund giving to the Building Fund. While we did end 2009 in the black, it was less than \$1,000. God has blessed us enough to do both.

God bless you,

Mark Smitherman
Stewardship Team Leader