

Mission Resource Team Update

March 2019

Walking the Walk of a Disciple of Christ

As I pen this letter, it is easy to divert my attention out the window, where the snow-covered Bridger Mountains are framed by a late-afternoon subdued blue sky. The air is crisp reminding me that we are in late-winter; the promise of spring still a little ways off. I think about how blessed we are to live in such a place, which then leads me to think about many who do not share our blessings. Yes and there are also those who share our space, but do not share our bounty. God's children in need are everywhere, including in our own congregation.

I would like to take this opportunity to share some thoughts and information about our congregation from a fiscal standpoint. We are almost three-fourths through our fiscal year. While at Hope we are not likely to talk about money too often, it important to take stock once in a while. Our ministries, how we serve others, here and around the world, is almost entirely dependent on the money Hope is able to generate from offerings from members. Hope operates solely on your donations.

Over the last several years our operating budget is basically flat. Income has not increased over this timeframe, and in most years we have dipped into the reserve fund to meet expenses, which thanks to a frugal staff, are always under the projected budgeted expenses. Remember frugality occasionally means something is left out or not done

The good news is Hope is involved in many things benefiting God's community.

- Every Sunday morning we are greeted by a stimulating, diverse and worshipful service. During Lent and Advent we see that expanded to Wednesdays as well.
- We provide funding and many volunteers to community-facing ministries such as Family Promise, the Gallatin Valley Food Bank, the mobile soup kitchen, Christmas shop, Fork and Spoon, quilting ministry, and Operation Christmas Child.
- We are a blood donation site for the American Red Cross, and a polling place.
- We provide space for the activities of over 60 local organizations
- We are a Red Cross disaster shelter
- We provide purposeful Christian education for all age levels
- We are a voice in eradication of discrimination in all of its forms
- We are a Teaching Congregation

The better news could be: I think Hope has the ability to expand, to reach more people; to do more to further the kingdom of God. Will you join me in contributing a little more; a little more talent, a little more time, and yes, a little more treasure. Hope supports an annual mortgage payment in excess \$205,000, which in turn supports a building which supports many of those gifts mentioned above. It is a wonderful gift to be able to give. Your increased financial support can help us keep giving more, helping us to walk further as disciples of Christ. Thank you.

Dick Deschamps
Mission Resource Team