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Main Street United Methodist Church  
601 West Main Street  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

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# THE LIGHTED SPIRE

*A monthly publication of Main Street United Methodist Church  
942-1179*

*Loving God—Growing in Faith—Serving Christ  
Volume 53, No. 3*



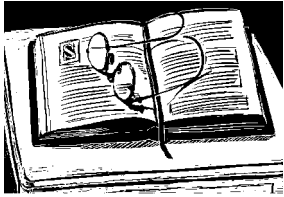
**2011**

Main Street Ministry Staff

Rev. Neil Hough, Lead Pastor	Don Coffey, Choir Director
Rev. Janet Knott, Care Pastor	Orville Bame, Organist
Rev. Bill Mayton, Pastor Emeritus	Tracy Straight, Children's Choir Director
Harold Baldwin, Lay Pastor	Leola Burks, Youth Choir Director
Kathy Snyder, Administrative Asst.	Donald Dollins, Handbell Director
Lisa Meehan, Administrative Asst.	Julie Conner, Nursery Director
Sondra Evans, Children's Director	Karen Jackson, Nursery Assistant
Tim Fridley, Youth Director	Stacy Lawhorne, Preschool Director

Email: [mymsumc@ntelos.net](mailto:mymsumc@ntelos.net)

Church Website: [mainstreetumchurchwaynesboro.com](http://mainstreetumchurchwaynesboro.com)



## Pastor Neil's Study Talk

The warm weather we've enjoyed recently has me thinking about Spring. The first few shoots of Spring bulbs have started to push through the mulch, announcing that Summer is not far away. Before we know it, flowers and trees will bud and bloom, grass will grow, and the sound of mowers will fill the Saturday morning air.

I'm not much of a gardener or landscaper, but I know that Springtime is a time for preparation. It is the time for preparing the soil, for trimming shrubs, for dividing perennials, and for many other necessary chores. Although we may not see the fruit of our preparations for several months, we won't see any fruit (or blooms or blossoms) at all if we don't put in the time and effort now.

Since the early 300s and continuing up to today, Christians have had their own list of Springtime spiritual chores. Observing a season called Lent – the 40 days not counting Sunday which lead up to Easter – Christians have intentionally dug around in the soil of their lives, weeding and trimming, watering and planting, in preparation for the celebration of Easter. Christians have believed that the hard work of Lent would bear fruit in their lives. The evidence is overwhelming. Observing Lent makes a difference.

Traditionally, Lent is a season for fasting, for abstaining from food in order to focus on prayer, and for remembering our dependence on God for sustenance and salvation. Today, in place of the spiritual practice of fasting, many people “give something up” for Lent, but often fail to connect their self-denial with their spiritual lives. A friend of mine tells his congregation that there's no spiritual significance to giving up chocolate for Lent. Instead of “giving something up,” he challenges the congregation he serves to “take something on.”

## Main Street Preschool Happenings....

*Wanda Pittman-Kornicke*  
*MSP Chair*

*Stacy Lawhorne*  
*Director*

### **Spring is Coming!**

The days are starting to get longer, the cold is getting a little less bitter (thank you, Phil), and you can hear the pitter-patter of little feet on the MSP playground once again. Spring must be on its way!

MSP is busy as always; things just seem a bit more joyous when it not so cold. We are busy getting ready for our Spring Show, Pajama Days, Spring Break, and ultimately: Easter. Lots to do and unlike the days—our time is beginning to run short!

FYI:

--Chick-fil-a Night is coming again! Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> eat at Chick-fil-a and tell them you are with MSP. We may get a portion of what you spend!

--Registration is continuing for Fall classes. Call Stacy at 942-1179 or 942-2324, find us online at [www.msp-learn.com](http://www.msp-learn.com), or ask the nice ladies in the office for an info packet. We would love to talk to you!

--Mark your calendar for our Spring Show: April 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:15.

We always feel so loved by our church family. Thanks to all of you who think of us when you buy Campbell's soup, have a collection of cardboard rolls, or donate money to our various programs and scholarships. MSP loves being a part of MSUMC!

Have a glorious Spring and if you get the chance take a meander through the preschool to enjoy the “spring things” that always sprout on our walls. Little hands worked hard making them so enjoy them on the days that are a little more “Winter” and a little less “Spring”!

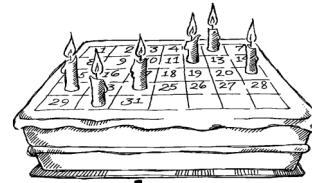
Stacy

# Youth Ministry

For questions or more information on any youth activities, contact Tim Fridley at 487-3265 or [timothy.fridley@yahoo.com](mailto:timothy.fridley@yahoo.com).

The youth and adults that attended the Acquire the Fire event had a great time. Thanks for all the prayers for safe travels. We would like to thank everyone that has contributed to the youth fund. Without your support we would not be able to attend events that help to change lives.

The youth will be hosting the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner this year on March 8th. We are looking for volunteers to help out. The youth will be coming after school to help out with the event. We also are in need of anyone with a talent they would like to share. There will be a small talent show the night of the dinner. Anyone wishing to be in the talent show please contact Tim Fridley at (540)487-3265 after 5 P.M.



## Birthdays This Month

**We wish birthday happiness to those who have birthdays in March and early April.**

If you haven't already informed the office of your birthday and wish to be included in future listings of birthdays, please call the office at 942-1179 and inform us of your special day.

Thanks.

Bill Bays	3/2	Jim Fowler	3/18
Mary Cassell	3/2	Barbara Glick	3/18
Adam Terry	3/3	Carol Cooper	3/19
Gary Smith	3/3	Evelyn Kiser	3/20
Caleb Smith	3/4	Lyn Short	3/20
Marv Schaff	3/4	Matthew Curry	3/22
Ed Plunkett	3/5	Mark Curry	3/22
Jean Nichols	3/6	Dot Trott	3/22
Bill Mayton	3/6	Corey Meehan	3/22
Sondra Evans	3/8	Helen Ammons	3/22
Skylar Kraus	3/11	Joyce Bradt	3/24
Anne Ramsey	3/11	Gene Mooney	3/26
Grace Terry	3/12	Millie Trent	3/28
Maryellen Lemons	3/12	John Knapp	3/28
Cameron Guthrie	3/12	Ethan Atkins	3/29
Michael Curry	3/13	Vanessa Stanley	3/29
Barbara Mooney-Blevins	3/13	Carson Lawhorne	3/30
Kathy Snyder	3/13	Sydney Hill	4/1
Phillip Dollins	3/14	Christian Straight	4/2
William Shields	3/15	Janice McGuffin	4/2
Donna Johnson	3/17	Val Thomson	4/2
Linda Witt	3/17	Clyde Anderson	4/2
Taylor Hutchinson	3/17		

# Main Street Calendar

## Worship: Helping People Love God

8:30 am Informal Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Traditional Worship

Ministry at Augusta Rehab: 10:00 am First Sundays

Ministry at Waynesboro Manor: 9:45 am Third Sundays

Masterpeace Ringers: 4:30 pm Sundays

Genesis Bells: 5:00 pm Sundays

Youth Choir (Middle School, High School): 6:00 pm Sundays

Children's Choir: For ages 3 to 5th grade, 6:00 pm Wednesdays

Adult Choir: 7:00 pm Wednesdays

Praise Band: 8:00 pm Wednesdays

## Discipleship: Helping People Grow in Faith

Youth Group Activities: 6:30 pm, Every Sunday

Fellowship Meals: 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm, Every Wednesday

Discipleship Classes: 6:00 pm, Every Wednesday

Wacky Wednesdays for Kids: 6:00 pm Wednesdays

Youth Group Studies: 6:00 pm Wednesdays

Women's Bible Study Circle: 10:30 am Second Thursdays

Women's Social Concerns Circle: 10:30 am Second Thursdays

Women's Dorcas Circle: 11:00 am Second Thursdays

Women's A.N.G.E.L. Circle: 7 pm Second Mondays

Bible Study: 2 pm Thursdays

## Ministry Teams: Helping People Serve Christ

Church Council: 7:00 p.m. 3rd Monday of every month

Trustees: 6:00 pm Second Sunday of every other month

"Spire" Volunteers: 9:00 am Last Thursday

Stephen Ministers: 7:00 pm First & Third Thursday

Stephen Leaders: 7:00 pm Fourth Thursdays

Main Street Adult Singers (visiting nursing homes): 1st Sat. Each Mo.

## Special Monthly Events

March 8, 5:00 pm: Shrove Tues. Pancake Supper, Talent Show

Starting March 13, 6:00 pm (Sunday nights): Children's Lent Study

Starting March 13: Adult Lent Study, Youth Lent Study

Starting March 16, 12:00 pm (Wednesdays): Lenten Lunches

March 26, 8:00 am: UMW District Prayer Breakfast

March 28, 6:30 pm: Lay Visitation Meeting

*For more information on any upcoming events, contact Lisa or Kathy in the church office, 942-1179.*

# Children's Ministry

For questions or more information on any children's activities, contact Sondra Evans at 942-1179 or [Creative74@aol.com](mailto:Creative74@aol.com).

Children's Lenten Study: The 24 Hours that Changed the World  
Going along with Pastor Neil's "24 Hours" study (being studied in small groups all over the church), we will have a "children's version" of this study as well. Beginning on Sunday, March 13th, the children will do a 7 week study which will go along with the adult study. We will meet each Sunday night at 6pm. The children will be divided into two groups: Pre-K through 1st grade, and 2nd grade through 5th grade. If you would like to sign up your child for this study event, please contact Sondra Evans at [Creative74@aol.com](mailto:Creative74@aol.com) or call the church at 942-1179.

## Easter is just around the corner!

The Children's Ministry is looking for a yard or a large outdoor space for our Easter Egg Hunt. If you are able to help by volunteering your yard, or even by helping with the event (Date and Time TBD), please contact the church ASAP.

## Main Street Singers

Our Children's Choir practices each Wednesday night at 6pm in the Children's Choir room downstairs. The March performance for the congregation will be at the 11am service on Sunday, March 6th. In addition, the Main Street Singers will be performing at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Talent show on Tuesday, March 8th. Please make plans for your children to practice each Wednesday, and also attend the performances. For more information, please contact Tracy Straight at 943-0764.

## Vacation Bible School- 2011

This year, we will have a church-wide "Shake It Up Cafe" VBS from June 20-24. Each night, we will have groups of children rotating into different aspects of Bible learning, fun and games, music, recreation, and crafts. Mark your calendars! We will need tons of volunteers, so please contact Sondra Evans if you would like to help in any way!

## **Opportunities for Mission and Ministry**

### **Items Needed in the Main Street Pantry**



#### **Canned Fruit**

The Main Street Food Pantry operates from Monday through Thursday, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., to assist people in our community in need of food. Financial or food donations are accepted. Contact Doug Edwards (942-3787) or Joe Duncan (942-6259) for more information.

#### **Grief Support Group to Begin, March 2, 4:00 PM**

Due to recent losses in our congregation, our grief support group for widows and widowers is being re-activated. Interested persons are invited to be a part of this group as we support each other along the difficult journey toward recovery. We will be known as the "Mourning to Morning" Group. Our first session will be held on Wednesday, March 2 at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference room. For information please call Cathy Parrigan at 943-4983 or Rosalie Bailey at 943-0900.

#### **Would You Like to Make a Difference?**

Prayers do make a difference with lives changed because of God's answers. Members of Main Street's e-mail prayer chain can begin praying during the week when a crisis or new prayer request becomes known. If you are not on the church e-mail prayer chain, just notify the church office at 942-1179 or [mymsumc@ntelos.net](mailto:mymsumc@ntelos.net) to add your name to the group.

#### **Disciples' Kitchen Breakfasts, Saturday Mornings**

Disciples' Kitchen has now extended to offer a breakfast to be held every Saturday at Basic UMC. Fifty-five people were served at the first breakfast on Feb 12. On April 16, Main Street will provide a bag breakfast to all in need. Usually a hot breakfast is provided, but on April 16 Basic is having an indoor yard sale, so a bag breakfast will be provided. We need four more volunteers. Please contact Ron Hiserman 540-943-9874 or [rabbit44@ntelos.net](mailto:rabbit44@ntelos.net) if you can help. These folks need our help. What a great way to give back to your community!

#### **Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Mar. 7 at Janet Pompeo's house. Please join us for a group meeting and fellowship. You need not know how to knit or crochet; we will teach you. Did you know prayer shawls are available for you to deliver to family members or friends if needed? Contact the church office to arrange for pickup. For more information about the Prayer Shawl Ministry, contact Sharon O'Dell at 943-9750.

#### **Holy Week at Main Street**

During Holy Week, April 17 – 24, Main Street Church will be holding several special worship services so that we can experience, remember, and celebrate the powerful message of Jesus' death and resurrection.

**Palm Sunday** (April 17) ~ The LARCUM Churches will hold a Palm Sunday procession, starting at Grace Lutheran Church at 10:00am and ending at Main Street in time for our 11:00 service.

**Holy Thursday** (April 21) ~ There will be a worship service, celebrating Jesus' Last Supper, at 7:00pm at the church. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

**Good Friday** (April 22) ~ There will be a worship service, remembering the darkness of Good Friday, at 7:00pm at the church.

**Easter Sunday** (April 24) ~ Morning worship services and Sunday School will be held at normal times. There will be a special service of Holy Communion on Easter Sunday evening at 6:30pm at the church. Reverend Anne Hough will preach at the Sunday evening service.

## *From the Desk of Pastor Janet*

"You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others; so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14a; 16

How is your light shining? Is it bright or does it need a little brightening? I have a silver teapot, sugar bowl and cream pitcher. They used to shine brightly, but are very tarnished right now. They need a good polishing.

Sometimes we get like that silver. We need a little polishing. If you know anything about silver, you know that it needs continuous polishing to stay shiny and bright.

Our lives need the same thing. We need to be polished. How do we do that? In order for our light to shine before others, we need to keep ourselves in tune with God. That takes continuous study and connection with Christ.

I want to encourage you to take advantage of opportunities to grow in the Spirit of God. An opportunity is available to us all during the season of Lent. We will, as a church, be studying Adam Hamilton's book 24 Hours That Changed the World. There will be many opportunities at different times of the day and different days of the week for us to study. Please look for the notice of these classes and sign up for the one that fits your schedule. Let us all let our light shine.

Remember, I'm here to care for you and encourage you in any way that I can. Please help me to be informed of things going on with members of our congregation. Please let me know if you or someone else is dealing with an illness or makes a trip to the hospital. I don't know if someone doesn't tell me.

Feel free to call if you want to talk. My number is 241-1960.  
Blessings,  
Pastor Janet

### **Camp Overlook**

Brochures for Camp Overlook's summer programs are available in the literature rack outside the church office. Camp Overlook, the United Methodist retreat and camping facility supported by the Staunton District, offers week-long, Bible-based overnight programs for children who have completed 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through youth who have completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade. They also offer Day Camp, Music Camp, Art Camp, and other special events and activities. Pick up a brochure for a child or youth in your family. Get more information at [www.CampOverlook.org](http://www.CampOverlook.org).

### **Main Street's Financial Secretaries 2011**

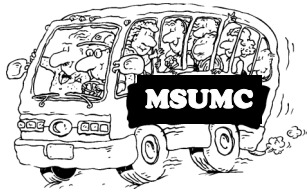
We want to express our appreciation for the wonderful service of two of our members for many years: Judy McKinney and Janice McGuffin who have now retired from the position of Financial Secretary. We welcome Dinah Vance and Lucy Stultz as our very capable replacement team for this position. If you have financial questions concerning your giving, please contact one of them or call the church office at 942-1179 and we will let them know you have questions or concerns.



## THOSE SERVING OUR CHURCH THIS MONTH

Unlocking our doors each Sunday morning is . . .

Tom Puckett



Our van teams are . . . .

- Mar. 6 Dave & Terri Sheldon
- Mar. 13 Bruce Allen, Doug Norcross
- Mar. 20 Gene & Frances Mooney
- Mar. 27 Gene & Ann Walker

And our Lay Readers at 11 am for the month are . . .

- Mar. 6 Henry Vance
- Mar. 13 Lucy Stultz
- Mar. 20 Harold Baldwin
- Mar. 27 Evelyn Farris



Our Children's Worship helpers are...



- |         | <u>8:30 am</u>     | <u>11:00 am</u>  |
|---------|--------------------|------------------|
| Mar. 6  | Stephanie Schaefer | Caroline Baldwin |
| Mar. 13 | Donna Johnson      | John Hill        |
| Mar. 20 | Lisa Meehan        | Stacy Lawhorne   |
| Mar. 27 | Brenda Daniels     | Laurie Lafferty  |

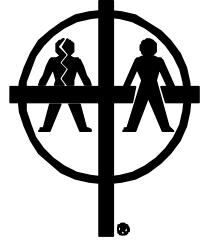
Those delivering CD's to shut-ins are...

- Mar. 6 Lucy Stultz
- Mar. 13 Bobbie Fitzhugh
- Mar. 20 Charlene Plunkett
- Mar. 27 Dottie Weeks



Any articles or information for the April "Lighted Spire" should be sent to the office no later than March 24. Thank you!

# Stephen Ministry Notes



It was 36 years ago, when Kenneth C. Haugk graduated from seminary and graduate school in clinical psychology and became a pastor. This was God's calling on his life, and he looked forward to bringing Christ's love to hurting people.

Dr. Haugk soon found out that there are many needs in a church, and he was only one person. He discovered that he could not do it all. The solution soon became obvious. He was to "equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12)

That was the beginning of what we know as Stephen Ministry today. Dr. Haugk began with nine lay people in his congregation – just "ordinary" people. His experiment was a huge success, and Stephen Ministry has grown ever since.

We are blessed here at Main Street to have 13 active Stephen Ministers. These 13 "ordinary" people spent 354 hours making 390 contacts with care receivers during the last year. They are well trained and give of their time freely. They give one-on-one Christian care to their care receivers. Please join Pastor Neil and Pastor Janet in thanking these folks for their ministry.

If you would be interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, or having a Stephen Minister, or if you would like additional information, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders – Pastor Janet at 241-1960, Harold Baldwin at 337-1348 or Eleanor Duncan at 942-6259.

## As Years Go By!

Researched by Ron Hiserman



### The Resurrection Window

Scripture References: Mark 16:1-20; Matthew 28; Luke 24; John 20, 21; Acts 1:1-13; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Cross: Note the elaborateness and beauty of this cross as compared with the cross in the Calvary Window to the left. This may be thought of as the cross enriched and interpreted by Christian experience in the light of the Resurrection of Jesus and the experience of his Living Presence. Protestants have an empty cross which symbolizes that, although Christ died, he is alive forevermore.

Monogram-Chi Rho: This is the oldest monogram for Jesus Christ. The monogram is formed by placing the Greek letters X (chi) and P (rho) together. X and P are the first two letters of the Greek word for "Christ". The monogram is in the center of the cross to indicate the death of Jesus.

Peacock: Symbols of resurrection are glad announcements of the news that Christ is risen. Most resurrection symbols are taken from nature - the lily, the butterfly which emerges from the chrysalis, the pomegranate, the egg. The bird known as the peacock is one of the showiest birds of the world. King Solomon brought peacocks to Palestine. The most beautiful part of the peacock is the colorful tail feathers. These tail feathers will drop off or molt, but new feathers-more attractive than before-will grow to take their place. In this we see new life coming from death. It also represents immortality. From an ancient legend, the flesh of a peacock does not decay. Sometimes the peacock is portrayed drinking from a vase - this symbolizes a Christian drinking the water of eternal life. In addition the "multitude of eyes" upon its beautiful fan tail suggests the all-seeing eye of God.

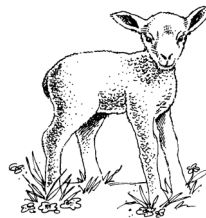


### Lenten Luncheon Schedule 2011

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host Church</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
March 16	Main St. UMC	Rolo Castillo
March 23	Westminster Pres.	Scott Conrad
March 30	1st Baptist	Jon Lovelady
April 6	1st Presbyterian	Neil Hough
April 13	St. John's Catholic	David Washburn

Lunch begins at noon each Wednesday and consists of soup, sandwiches, cookies and beverage and costs \$2 per person. Worship is from 12:35-12:50 p.m. Lunch reservations need to be into the church office by 11 a.m. on the Monday preceding the Wednesday lunch. Mark your Connection Card on Sunday or call the church office at 942-1179.

### SHARING GOD'S LOVE



The children who attend the 8:30 Children's Church decided to send their weekly offering to a special mission - *Heifer International*. Since 1944 Heifer International has worked to bring help, healing and hope to millions of impoverished families around the world. In many areas where hunger and despair were the norm, Heifer programs have changed lives and empowered communities through livestock, training and by "Passing on the Gift" - a way of families sharing their blessings with others.

Our group has already purchased a flock of ducks and geese and we are now working towards buying a sheep! When we have enough money, a healthy female sheep will be sent to a family who have been trained and prepared for the arrival of the sheep. Throughout the year that sheep will provide soft, warm wool that can be used for clothing or sold to pay for food, medicine or school. The family covenants with *Heifer International* to give one, or more, of its sheep's offspring to another family - and so the love and hope for a better future is passed on.

Our sheep will cost \$120. We already have about \$20! Watch the sheep on the bulletin board downstairs as we fill in the sheep's "wool" to show how we are getting closer to our target. (A BIG thank you to Mrs. Jeane Custin who drew the sheep for us!) If you would like to help us with this mission project you can make a check to the church and designate it to "Children's Church Heifer Project" or just put coins/a dollar in an envelope and mark it the same way. Thank you!

*Anne Hough*

### Lent Study ~ 24 Hours That Changed the World

During Lent, Main Street Church will be holding a church-wide study called **24 Hours That Changed the World**. The study is based on a book with the same title by Reverend Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS. Our goal is that everyone who is an active participant at Main Street will take part in the study in small groups of 8-15 people. Nine groups are being offered at various times and places each week during Lent. There is a time and place for everyone, including children and youth. Two age-appropriate groups for children will meet Sunday evenings at the church at 6:00pm. The youth group will also study 24 Hours during their Sunday evening programs. Contact Sondra Evans and Tim Fridley for details about the children and youth programs.

The adult study, which will begin the week of March 13, uses video of Reverend Hamilton visiting the Holy Land and teaching in his own church. When the study is finished, participants will have a deeper understanding of the meaning of the cross for Christian faith. You can sign-up for one of the groups using the insert in Sunday's bulletin, or by calling the church office at 942-1179. The materials for the class consist of the book, 24 Hours That Changed the World, and a small devotional book with 40 days of readings. The cost for both books is only \$22. Financial assistance is available and couples/families can share material if they prefer. (Checks should be made out to Main Street UMC, marked **Lent Study**, and put in the offering plate on Sunday morning.)

That sounds good to me. So instead of "giving something up," I'm going to challenge you to "take something on" for Lent 2011. Specifically, I'm going to challenge you to "take on" our Lent study, **24 Hours That Changed the World**. I firmly believe that attending worship during Lent, where I will be preaching about **24 Hours**, and participating in the study will bear fruit in your life as you learn more about what God has done to change the world.

Spring is an exciting time. It is a season of hope and possibility. Lent can also be an exciting season of hope and possibility. My hope and prayer is that you will consider the possibility that God is working in your life. I believe God changed the world through Jesus' death and resurrection. And I believe that if God can change the world, God can change your life too. Come and see what God can do.

*Pastor Neil*

### **Ash Wednesday March 9**

There will be an Ash Wednesday worship service on March 9 at 7:00pm at the church. This service begins our 40-day journey through Lent, leading us to Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. Come spend time reflecting on the love and grace of God. Ashes will be available for all who wish to receive them. There will be no discipleship classes on March 9. There will be a LARCUM Ash Wednesday service at noon on March 9 at St. John's the Evangelist Catholic Church.

## Budget as of January 31, 2011

<u>Item</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Var. %</u> *	<u>Var. \$</u> **
<b>Revenue:</b>				
Est. of Giving	41,470			41,470
Budget Fund Raisers	0			0
Other Budget Revenue	<u>1,673</u>			<u>1,673</u>
Total Revenue	43,143	0		43,143
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Church Operations	7,514			7,514
Ministries	1,390			1,390
Staff Parish	19,696			19,696
District Apportionments	0			0
Priority Apportionments	3,552			3,552
Other Apportionments	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
Total Expenses	32,152	0		32,152
Revenue Minus Expenses	10,991	0		10,991

Our 2011 budget was not available for the Spire.

*At the February meeting of Church Council, the Finance Committee and Council approved a **six month Balanced Budget** for Main Street. We want to make the membership aware of this decision as it is different than you are used to seeing in our written communication in the Spire and the weekly bulletin.*

*Main Street is facing another challenging year and we are in the process of doing a ministry wide prioritization of ministry and missions at Main Street. This process will allow us to assess the order of funding for the very important mission of bringing God's love, promise and grace to those in our church, community, country and world.*

*The prioritization will not be complete until sometime in late March or April, but we need a financial plan in place to allow us to operate efficiently until that occurs. All the written financial reporting you will see between now and June will **reflect ONLY the FIRST SIX MONTHS and NOT an annual Budget.***

*Below is a summary of our six month spending plan. **This plan covers only absolutely necessary expenses until our prioritization is complete and a full budget is approved. So keep in mind the full annual expense budget is MORE than twice what you see on the next page.***

*You will note that the expenses are more than revenues. To accomplish a balanced budget we will pay the apportionments at a rate of 80% of total until our revenues are sufficient to pay 100%. Council and the Finance Committee feel strongly that we need to pay our apportionments monthly and are in prayer that revenues will increase to allow us to pay 100%.*

<i>Estimate of Giving (Revenue)</i>	\$236,057
<i>Less: General Operating Expenses</i>	- 59,769
<i>Ministries and Missions</i>	- 16,028
<i>Salaries and Benefits</i>	- 120,001
<b>Apportionments (@ 100%)</b>	<u>- 44,997</u>
<i>Total Underfunded 1st 6 months</i>	<u>(\$ 4,698)</u>

*As always, both your Finance Committee and Church Council are committed to keeping you informed and believe communication with you is of the utmost importance. You will be hearing more about the approved financial plan throughout the year. We will begin direct verbal communication during services starting in March.*

### Endowment Fund Update

Main Street's Endowment Fund has undergone several positive changes over the last year. Of greatest importance is an increase in the principal from \$41,740 to \$120,907. This was made possible by gifts made to the fund from generous church members and by improvements in the financial market. Gifts made to the fund are never touched but the proceeds from the investments are used to support different programs of our church. Our committee has set up several investment vehicles for money donated to the fund, and any type of gift (memorial, honorarium, etc.) can be designated to go into it. Please consider our Endowment Fund when making gifts to Main Street, as your generosity will give back to the church forever. If you have any questions about the fund or would like to have a presentation about it for your church group, please contact Bob Partridge at 943-0528, or other committee members—Mildred Broughman, Byron Ford, Neil Hough, and Gene Walker.