

Dear Fellow Church Members,

As we near the end of the calendar year the Finance Team wanted to apprise you of a few stewardship highlights and alert you to some pressing needs.

First, we have a tremendous amount to celebrate. The new organ in the sanctuary is fully funded thanks to the generosity of many of you. This new instrument will be delighting worshippers for years to come, and the congregation's willingness to address this unexpected \$200,000 need is humbling. Our second mile campaign to help reduce the building debt has also raised nearly \$100,000 this year – money that will be used to pay down our loan. Overall giving at Hixson UMC is the highest it has been, and we know that many of you have given sacrificially to meet these needs.

However wonderful this news is, we have noticed a decrease in giving to the operating budget during this time. The operating budget (and your general undesignated gifts) support all of the needs of our church as well as our outreach and missions efforts locally and throughout the world. We are presently projecting a deficit of up to \$70,000 in our operating budget this year.

This is where we all come in – we sincerely thank you for your contributions thus far and ask that where possible, additional gifts be made to the operating budget this year. We know not everyone is in a position to do so, but for those than can make an extra contribution we ask that you prayerfully consider doing so. Also, as we move into 2018 please consider the Operating Budget first, and where possible, increase your giving as you feel called.

We are blessed to participate in ministry at Hixson UMC together, and we have much to be thankful for; the new facilities for our children, new organ, refurbished worship and study space, and a thriving mission and outreach to our community. Please help us finish the year strong in our stewardship.

Blessings to you and your family,

HUMC Finance Team

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