

DOLLARS & SENSE

Atlee Community Church

March 2009

Last fall I gave everyone an overview of our financial situation. I want to now take a moment to tell how the 2008 calendar year finished. If you recall going into the winter, quite a bit of our giving had fallen behind. We then started to talk about our finances, because withdrawing funds from our savings account on a regular basis just to meet our normal expenses became a normal occurrence; that in turn caused our savings to dwindle down to just over \$35,000. At this point steps were taken to inform everyone where the church was financially and the dire need to raise additional funds before staff layoffs were forced to take place.

I am very excited to report that the Lord, through His church provided in only ways that He can! Our end of year giving resulted in Atlee receiving over \$146,000. This in turn allowed us to rebuild our savings account. Since starting this process back in early November, there has been no need to withdraw funds from savings in order to meet our current budget. This is great news that everyone should celebrate and thank the Lord for providing what was needed.

As a result of our going through these tough times a lot has been learned. Much time has been spent in prayer and discussion as to our next steps. Specific action steps were laid out. We have been open and honest with Staff as well as the family of Atlee about our finances. It is only as a result of these difficult times that Atlee has chosen to discuss finances on a regular basis. We do not want to turn people off by always seemingly asking for a hand out.

Going forward it would be foolish not to consider the current economic environment America is in. We have strived to be very frugal looking ahead to this coming year. Although moving funds from our savings account has not occurred thus far, Atlee's weekly giving has at times been way under our weekly budgeted needs. Forecasting the upcoming year has been a challenge to say the least. If you have looked in the bulletin the past few weeks we have been well under our weekly budget of \$19,987, with total giving going as low as \$13,431. This past week however (February 22nd), we were over budget at \$21,474. This is what it means to "trust in the Lord and lean not on our own understanding". A lot of other area churches are going through the same circumstances as Atlee. We are not alone.

I am confident that the Lord will continue to guide us through this process. Below will update you on a few additional things that you may not be aware of:

First off we are in the final stages of getting county approval for the construction of a cell tower on the church property. In the next few months this could potentially bring a rent check of over \$1,400 per month. If this lease runs its full 20 year term, that translates to over \$400,000.

Recently launched was the ability of online giving through Atlee's website. Anyone can now use www.Paypal.com as a means to send electronic funds to the church. This method has been used on a regular basis and continues to grow.

On April 18, 2009 we will be holding a Church Wide Yard Sale. All proceeds from the yard sale will be going to Atlee. If you would like more information please contact Diane Melia at drmelia@comcast.net or 559-0937.

DOLLARS & SENSE

Atlee Community Church

March 2009

If you have noticed in the bulletin, as well as on the announcement slides, there have been promotions for the use of an internet search engine called www.Goodsearch.com. Each time a person uses this search engine the church receives a penny! There is also a sister site called www.Goodshop.com. When a person uses this site to shop online the church receives 3%-5% of the purchase price. With very little effort from 1,000 folks, Atlee could receive over \$22,000 per year! An example of how much money can be generated is shown in the graph below.

Here is an example of how much an organization can earn:

Charity or School Size	Number of Supporters	Average Searches Per Day	Estimated Revenue/Year from Search	Amount Purchased Per Person/Year via GoodShop	Average % of Sale Donated	Estimated Revenue from Shopping	Total Donation/Year
Small	100	2	\$730	\$500	3%	\$1,500	\$2,230
Medium	1,000	2	\$7,300	\$500	3%	\$15,000	\$22,300
Large	10,000	2	\$73,000	\$500	3%	\$150,000	\$223,000

For the next few months everyone in our database will receive a request to update their family information. It is critical that you participate in order for the church to have accurate records for those who call Atlee Community Church their home.

In closing I would like to report that our attendance numbers are climbing, as well as our enthusiasm for what lies ahead in the coming months. Thank you for your continued support of the Staff and Ministries here at Atlee!

Your brother in Christ,

Nelson Parker

Nelson Parker
Executive Director of Administration