

Here's what's coming up



heritage  
CHURCH

Real People • Real Faith

May 2009

Have you been riding an emotional roller coaster? One day the stock market is up; the next it is down. One day you hear about lay-offs; the next you hear about new jobs. You hope the stimulus package is stimulating something but the truth is the economic outlook for the next year is cloudy.

What is the economic outlook here at Heritage? As we end another fiscal year total giving is up! You have given faithfully to the Stewardship Journey for expansion! You have given generously to the Assistance Fund. And the General Fund is only slightly behind a year ago. This is amazing in the light of the economy! Thank you for your faithfulness.

But...(don't you hate it when you hear that word?)...we do have some challenges. Our board, finance team & staff have been hard at work preparing a new budget that takes effect on May 1. The staff is charged with dreaming big and fulfilling our ministry goals. The Finance Committee is charged with making sure our planning doesn't write checks we won't be able to cash. The church board has to find the balance between the two.

Here are some issues we are dealing with.

- ♦ The Bettendorf Campus has been a wonderful success *but* for the first two years we have been paying operating expenses out of funds we had set aside. On May 1 the full operating expenses of Bettendorf hit the budget.
- ♦ You have been faithful in giving *but* the economic outlook is unclear and lost jobs could result in lost giving capacity. We are trying to write a budget that prepares for that possibility.
- ♦ Our staff has worked hard to prepare plans for the new fiscal year *but* you can't deal with increased expenses and possible decreased contribution levels without pain. We will keep ministry functioning fully while carving out every dollar we can from ministry spending. We are taking a year off from spending money on staff training and Christmas bonuses. We have reduced the number of staff positions and remaining staff has taken a pay cut in order to keep our budget balanced. Our commitment is to implement a spending plan that combines faith and facts in a way which allows ministry to go forward.

Even with these challenges our staff is engaged in fulfilling God's vision for the church this year. We want to reach 600 new people this year and influence them toward Jesus!

So what can you do? **Please pray.** Pray for **wisdom** as our leadership teams do the hard work of financial management. Pray for **encouragement** as our staff gives more and receives less financial compensation. Pray for **guidance** as you seek God's direction in *your* financial life.

**Thanks for being faithful.**

### May Events

- 1-2 District Women's Retreat
- 1-3 "Never Too Young" Conf.
- 2-3 Annual Voting (lobby)
- 9 Global Outreach Highlight Dinner
- 9-10 Infant Dedication
- 10 Mother's Day
- 14-16 "Frequency"  
(Adult Conference at IWU)

*For a more detailed calendar of events, visit our website at [www.heritageqc.com](http://www.heritageqc.com).*