



November 27, 2018

Fellow Disciples at West Side,

First of all, we would like to thank you for your commitment and daily demonstrations of love and service as we seek to serve God and others and make new disciples in his kingdom. West Side is a special place and has a long history of generously supporting ministries and missions both locally and around the world. Foreign missions, local missions, benevolence, children's homes, CCSC, youth ministry, Camp Caudle, Celebrate Recovery, prison ministry, Monday Night for the Master; the list could go on of ways that West Side is sharing the Good News and serving others in the name of Jesus.

As it is with any church or organization, the ministries and missions we can support is dependent on the level of contributions received from our members. The level of what we do and what we support reflects the membership, and that reflection has always been bright.

In 2018 we have struggled to meet the budget that was developed to support the ongoing work (including the ministries list above and normal fixed costs such as utilities, building costs, salaries, supplies, janitorial costs, etc.) and any new works worthy of support. We anticipate a projected deficit of around \$120,000 based on the rate of contributions to date. The relocation of several families, economic conditions for some, changing demographics and an increased budget from 2017 are possible contributing factors.

We have designated this Sunday, December 2, as our Harvest Sunday. We are asking all members to consider how they have been blessed in 2018 and give generously during the special contribution this Sunday. Contributions can also be made at any time between now and the end of 2018. These contributions will be applied to the expenses and ministry commitments we have had this year.

West Side is in sound financial condition. The church owns all of the facilities with no mortgages and has relatively little debt. All of the ministries and missions we support are worthy, in fact, there are many more we would like to support if we were able. Your eldership strives to be wise stewards, and we certainly realize that a budget deficit cannot continue; therefore, we are asking each family to prayerfully consider increasing their level of contribution in 2019. We will evaluate the contribution level for a period in 2019 and reset our goals and budgets accordingly. If the giving levels do not match the need, we will have to reduce support to ministries and missions and that would be unfortunate. West Side has always been blessed with a very generous and giving spirit, and we trust that will continue as we look to the future.

Whatever the size of our budget, our plan is for West Side to always be a place where we work to make disciples in God's Kingdom, reach out to others in need, enjoy good fellowship and serve one another in love. May God bless you and your spiritual walk. Please keep West Side in your prayers as we work through these concerns and plan our path forward.

The Elders