

Council President's Report

As we embark upon the last quarter of 2004 at United, we need to reflect upon where we have been and where we are going. Unfortunately, numbers represent the primary barometer used to measure one's current position or status, or in this case, the financial position or status of our church.

At the end of August 2003, we had an income of \$106,738 and expenses of \$114,503 for a deficit of \$7765. As of August 31, 2004 we had an income of \$94,748 and expenses of \$122,121 for a deficit of \$27,373. The net worth of all our funds has decreased from \$149,287 in August of 2003 to \$141,564 in August of 2004 for a net loss of \$7723. This is further compounded by having to transfer \$11,000 from our savings accounts to the checking account this month in order to be able to write checks to cover our current expenses.

A few members have raised concerns about the use of our church by outside groups. Some of these may be legitimate; however, for the most part there are no problems that cannot be overcome. Anytime you have a situation in which there is shared usage whether it is a building, toys, a kitchen, or whatever, instances will arise in which one party feels the other party is abusing the situation. I can assure you that the Church Council is taking the necessary steps to eliminate or minimize these conflicts to insure that our facilities are not being misused or that members of our congregation are not being placed in jeopardy. We must keep in mind that without the extra income from Sprint, the Hispanic church, and the other organizations using our facilities, our financial picture would be even more of a concern than it is at present.

In the past, the Sour Beef Dinner had been a source of income that has helped us over the financial hump, and we are confident that this year's profits will help a great deal. We are uncertain as to the amount of profit we can expect, as we've had to change to carry-out only due to insufficient volunteers to serve the lunch and dinner.

At the November congregational meeting we will be electing new council members. There are three council members that must go off the council because of the number of consecutive years served and three members that can be re-elected. So, we need at least three members of the congregation who are willing to run for the council.

Our church cannot function, survive, and grow without the help, support and involvement of the entire congregational family. We sincerely hope that each of you will do some soul searching and step forward to offer your help and guidance in helping to stabilize the future of our church.

May God's power, peace, and spirit be with each of you and your families.

Clarence Rowell
Council President