



THIRD QUARTER REPORT

JANUARY 21, 2024

# FINANCIAL CHATTER



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### A Note from the Finance Committee

The beginning of the new year gives an opportunity to evaluate what has been and look forward to what will be. For 2023, we celebrated God's faithfulness in God's care and support of us, and we also thank you for yours. In looking at the numbers, the year did not end with the financial health that we had worked for, and a deficit will be carried over into the new year. We are grateful for the Legacy Funds that helped carry us through the year. We do not take lightly our responsibility to the gifts from families who in their estate planning recognized the value of the kingdom work offered in and through our church.

As we move into 2024, we will continue to be transparent with you about our financial needs, both money spent and money needed, and we will move toward a balanced budget where expenses do not exceed receipts. We also recognize that this decision brings with it adjustments to spending that will impact programs and our facility. And in 2024, we will celebrate God's faithfulness in God's care and support of us and we trust that we can rely upon your support as well.

Again, thank you to those who have given generously and continuously. Your giving statement is enclosed. If you have not yet had an opportunity to give, we encourage you to take the next step and partner with us in cultivating fruit. No gift is too small. Gifts can be made through cash, check, Electronic Funds Transfer (<https://secure.myvanco.com/YPJ6/home>), or text (833-718-0142). We can also accept stock and other asset transfers.

### A Note from Your Lay Leader, Lisa Pool

I recently read a story shared by Ian Simkins about Dashrath Manjhi, the "mountain man". One day, while bringing her husband food, his wife Falguni slipped and fell to the bottom of a cliff. A villager notified Manjhi but, because the nearest hospital was so far away, they weren't able to get her there in time to save her life. It was after this tragic event that Manjhi vowed to carve a path through the mountains to prevent anything like this from ever happening again. For the next 22

years, Manjhi worked little by little to make a safer way for his community. He burned firewood on the rocky terrain and splashed the heated surface with water to chisel away at the cracked boulders and turned them into rubble. He plowed fields during the day to earn money and resumed his chiseling at night. When a drought struck their town, Manjhi's family moved to a different city, but he remained to continue the work. And in 1982, more than two decades later, Manjhi finally completed the 360-foot path and changed the lives of everyone in that village forever. The treacherous 35 miles they previously had to walk was now reduced to a much safer 10.

Small acts.

Every day.

To carve a path to healing.

It reminds me of the quote of Mother Teresa, "There are no great acts, only small acts done with great love." It's Eugene Peterson's "long obedience in the same direction." It's Zechariah 4:10 "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin."

What work might God be inviting you into today?

### If we want to move mountains, we might need to start chiseling rocks.

We might not ever see the impact of the small acts of love we choose, but I say we keep carving paths toward healing anyway, pointing people to Jesus. Because what you do, when done in love, is never in vain. St. Andrew's family, I've seen many small acts of love throughout 2023, and I hope that you took the time to notice them and be a part of them. Let's continue leading with love in 2024, for those small acts point us to the bigger love of God.

**"Listen to the long stillness: New life is stirring. New dreams are on the wing. New hopes are being readied: Humankind is fashioning a new heart. Humankind is forging a new mind. God is at work. This is the season of Promise.**

**"Howard Thurman"**



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## LET'S COUNT THE FRUIT WE'VE SEEN IN THIS 4TH QUARTER!

Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, church workday.



Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, Communion in the Columbarium.



Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, preschool Diwali celebration.



Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, Chaplain Graduation and Lunch.



Sunday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, Hanging of the Greens.



Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Christmas Festival.



Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, youth meal packing.



Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Preschool Christmas Program.



Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Project Harmony Concert.



Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, Cookies, Cocoa, and Carols.



December Cardmaking Class.



November/December Park South Athletic Association.



Mission for December, Loaves and Fishes Food Drive.



Our list continues to grow - It is your stewardship that helps these things happen - your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. There's always a way that YOU can be involved.