

## **A Word of Thanksgiving to SWCC**

The Budget Finance Team is very appreciative of the congregation for enabling us to prepare and adjust the numbers compiling the budget presented on Sunday. As a team we enjoyed making the effort and looked forward to its presentation. SWCC is truly a generous congregation. We have received financial assistance because of hurricane flooding in the recent past from members of our spiritual family who are never-the-less, strangers to us. We have also extended the same benevolence to Florida victims of natural disasters. Thank you all. Please note, I answered a question incorrectly regarding -17,300.00. It does not represent a shortfall. Just the opposite, it is revenue over what is budgeted for our current fiscal year.

On a personal note I want to thank Sarge, Michael and Larry for their leadership. I listened intently to each as they spoke words of hope and appreciation to all of us. As a former elder I know the work, prayers and tears of leadership that most members never see. I know the love they have for the Kingdom of God and the sacrifices that are made in the roles they fill. Our spiritual wellbeing is never far from their hearts. Individual and collective needs of the congregation do not go unheeded or unaddressed by our leaders, often in seclusion and privately. Prayers and subtle, non-public efforts accomplish much over time. Our leaders are human. They know their shortcomings better than any of us and they strive to live in ways that should be emulated by each of us. SWCC is blessed to have such selfless leadership.

As we move into the new fiscal year and if additional leaders are raised up (including an additional minister) it is my prayer that they love God, love us and will serve as selflessly as our current shepherds and minister. To make a slight change to one of the three challenges made to us by Larry, I encourage us not to despair what we may not have, but to see and embrace the blessings before us. May we all know God's blessings!

Dick Darroh