

Ending the Year Strong

ClearView Baptist Church <pastor@clearview.org>

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To

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Dear ClearView member,

I wanted to drop you a note to make you aware of where we are financially as we close out 2012. The Finance Office and the Finance Committee watch our trends month by month and quarter by quarter as the year progresses. With great consistency they can see about where we will end each year by the third quarter of each year.

As we approached September of this year, the church was giving on a trend to finish the year at about \$3.7 million for the year. The staff had made adjustments in July to work within this amount. As we looked at our ministry plan (budget) for 2013, we built the plan to match this amount (\$3.7 million). We felt good as we wrapped up the budget to provide information to you, the church.

However, the second half of September, October, November, and the first couple of weeks of December have been very weak giving months. To what do we attribute this downturn in giving? A couple of things may be contributing factors. The national election coupled with the threat of a "fiscal cliff", the announcement made September 9 regarding some financial indiscretion on the part of a staff member, and the large giving to One Great Day are probably all contributing factors.

The staff is controlling costs. Adjustments are already being made to the 2013 budget. Some of these adjustments will impact personnel. We are continuing to look at places we can control more expenses. We have been able to put some funds aside in reserve over the past couple of years. If we finish the year on the trend line of the past few months, we will have depleted much of that reserve.

I would ask that you prayerfully consider what you can do to help finish this year strong. If you can do more, I am asking you to give more. If for some reason, these past few months you have not given, I am asking that you would consider doing so as we finish out this year.

Pastor Mark