

## Tax Savings Opportunities?

The tax advantage that many seniors had enjoyed in the past few years may still be in effect for 2010. The popular **IRA charitable gift roll-over**, which had expired at the end of 2007, may be extended for 2010 pending final approval by Congress before the end of the year. This allows seniors who are 70½ or older to distribute up to \$100,000 from an IRA to a charitable organization without recognizing income and without having to take a charitable deduction. The qualified charitable distribution counts toward satisfying the IRA owner's minimum distribution requirements. Stay tuned for more information!

As always, donors may not receive any goods or services in return for their contribution and only cash donations qualify (no in-kind or stock donations). If you have any questions, please contact Joel Halvorson at 303-758-2820 or [joel@bethany-denver.org](mailto:joel@bethany-denver.org).

## Just the Facts...

The total construction cost of the re-built Bethany in 1987 was \$4,781,536. The financing of the project included an insurance settlement (\$1,420,000), member gifts (\$1,522,159), short-term debt (\$277,000) and long-term debt (\$1,515,900). By 1990, this debt burden had grown to \$2,175,000 primarily due to the use of credit to support the ongoing operations of the church during a difficult financial period in Denver. By the time the "new building" was approved in late 2000, the long-term debt remained at \$1,525,000. Ten years later, and one more building program, the debt is at \$1,754,000. Hopefully by the end of the year this will be less than it was when we started the building campaign in 2000!

*(Emergency continued from page 3)*

to suspect an individual may be harmful.

**AEDs at Bethany** – The main AED device at Bethany is located in the wall opposite the west entrance (pulpit side aisle) at the back of the Sanctuary. In case of an emergency, the AED should be utilized only after 911 has been contacted. Joel Halvorson, Forrest Guittar, Jess Daum and Gayle Newell have been trained and certified in CPR and AED use. However, the AED includes step-by-step instructions so that anyone can use it in case of an emergency.

Look for more information in the Beacon and the bulletin or contact a member of the task force if you have any questions: Lowell Palmquist, Dick Becker, David Sather, Steve Baer, Sarah Hulslander, Bill King, Terrie Miller, Dave Okes and David Scott.

# The BUSINESS of BETHANY

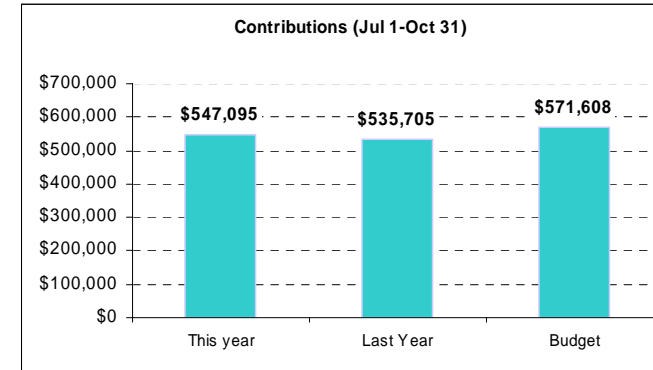
A Quarterly Newsletter from Bethany Administration



Fourth Quarter 2010

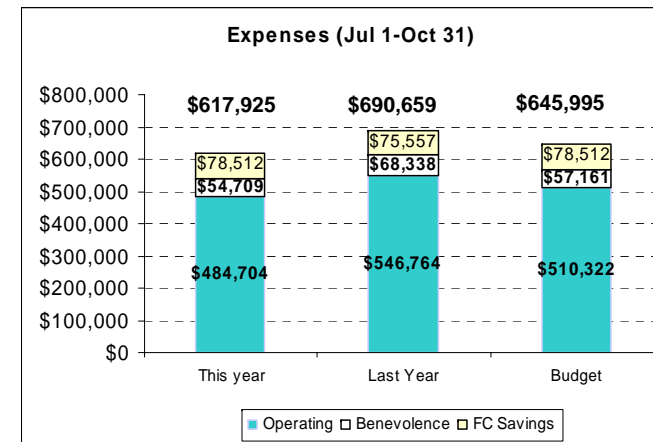
## Contribution Status

Contributions to the General Fund for the first four months of this budget year (starting July 1, 2010) are more than 2% above last year's contributions and 4% behind budget (or less than \$25,000). In order to stay on budget for the first six months of the year, Bethany needs to receive \$510,000 by year-end. This compares to a year-end goal of \$560,000 last year. We received actual contributions of \$455,000 in 2009 for the last two months of the year. Let's all work together to reach our goal!



## Expenditure Status

Total expenditures for the first four months of the budget year are nearly 11% behind last year and 5% behind budget. That is great news! In addition, we have been able to increase our Founders Campaign Savings from the General Fund due to the \$225,000 pre-payment we were able to make in September. For operating expenses only (excludes benevolence and Founders Campaign Savings allocations from the General Fund), our current spend rate is more than 11% behind last year's spend rate and more than 5% behind budget. With this, our net financial performance has improved by nearly \$85,000 from this time last year!



## Consecration Sunday and Annual Meeting—Nov 14

Don't miss the Consecration Sunday festivities all morning and the Annual Meeting at noon in the Great Hall on Sunday, November 14.

## Question of the Day...

*"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."*

- Winston Churchill

## Home Stretch for the Founders Campaign

It's hard to believe, but our 3-year Founders Campaign for Debt Reduction is coming to a close at the end of this year. This program has resulted in our debt being reduced from \$5 million in 2005 to \$1.7 million and our monthly payment from \$35,462/month to \$14,790/month. If you have yet to make a gift to this program, or have yet to complete your commitment, please do so by the end of the year or as soon as possible thereafter. Thank you!

## Facilities Update

Wow! What a year! We have made tremendous progress with the facility improvements and repairs thanks to the savings from the Founders Campaign. Since our last issue, we have had the east parking lot repaved, the new sound system installed in the Sanctuary and the narthex roof has been repaired. The Facilities Team will be planning for more projects in the coming year. Look for the Long-Term Capital Improvement plan at the Annual Meeting on November 14, or pick up your copy in the church office or on the website after November 14.



## Dear Uncle BOB-

It's that time of year again. The days get shorter, the nights get darker, the thermometer goes lower, the leaves change color and the church people talk stewardship. How do I know? Because the fall stewardship campaign starts and people start asking the same darn questions. Why do we have to talk about money all time? Why does the church need more money? What is a pledge card? Why do we have to fill it out in worship? If we have no money, why do we provide such a nice brunch? Why do we do this in the fall rather than in the spring? Why? Why? Why?

My only question is: Why does it have to be this way? I remember how you made it so simple and clear: count your blessings and share with others. As a "mouse of the church," part of our sharing has to be with the church. Any mouse can share, but a "church mouse" is called to do more. You also helped me to remember how much I have been given, rather than how much I don't have. **If we all focus on the abundance of God's blessings, the confusion about money, giving, pledging, needing, etc. goes away** and maybe the fall stewardship campaign would go away too! Wouldn't that be awesome?

See you in church!

## Thank You To...

...Brenda Greenwald who led the development of the daily 10.10.10 blog for the Hunger Relief Day. It was amazing to see all of the devotions, facts and testimonials on the important topic of hunger. Great work!

...the Men of Bethany helping with the food for donations for 10.10.10. While the Confirmation worship service was taking place (starting at 10:30am) the MOB crew gathered up all of the food that had been donated for Metro CareRing and delivered it for the 10.10.10 celebration. Great work, men!

## Emergency Preparedness at Bethany

At the direction of the Health Cabinet, Lowell Palmquist volunteered to lead the Emergency Preparedness Task Force. This group has been meeting since April of this year to discuss issues surrounding our collective ability as volunteers, staff, members and visitors to respond to an emergency situation including suspicious visitors, armed intruders, medical emergencies and weather emergencies. Initially, the guidelines will be distributed to the ushers. Of course, an emergency can happen at any time and not just on a Sunday morning when we have ushers. The team will be developing a plan to distribute the guidelines to other groups as well so that there will be a consistent response to emergencies from day to day.

A few important points for everyone to remember:

**Be Aware of Others** – Notice others who are in the building. If you encounter someone who you do not know or would consider suspicious, approach them in a calm, friendly way to see if you can be of any assistance. If you feel this person is a threat in any way, contact 911 immediately from a Bethany telephone (not a cell phone). The Cherry Hills Village police are always more than happy to help and want to be notified as soon as we have any reason

(continued on page 4)

...the Chad and Tara Sawinski family and the Eric and Jane Lee family for their donations of the large screen television sets you will see around the church. These will be used for both education and fellowship purposes.

...Jim and Elly Andersen for donating new trees for the main entrance area. The original plants in this area were a memorial gift in memory of their daughter Carol. Thank you for your tender care and nurturing of this special area.

## Budget Process for 2011/12

The budget process for 2011/12 will begin shortly after the New Year with the new Council. The results of the Consecration Sunday program as well as the year-end giving will be additional points for the discussion and decisions that will be made during the budget process. If you are a staff member or volunteer with budget responsibility, start thinking about your budget now, especially if you are expecting significant changes for your program area.

## Join the 1G Network!

The purpose of the 1G Network is to assist one another in professional pursuits such as business development, improving organizational competencies and job search; in a collective, healthy, inspiring environment.

Our hope is that by helping one another align toward achieving our professional goals, we each will contribute in a more positive way to our families, our communities, and back to the individuals and networks that have helped us along the way.

Join us every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in the Great Hall.