



HILLHURST AT A FORK IN THE ROAD

Yogi Berra, the legendary manager of the New York Yankees had a penchant for fracturing the English language with amusing and confusing but memorable comments that left listeners shaking their heads. When giving directions to his home he once said "When you get to a fork in the road take it"; another time he cautioned, "If you don't know where you're going you could end up somewhere else."

The church is buzzing with plans and potential – **Hillhurst is at a fork in the road.**

There will be some in the congregation who are confused about the role of the Annual Stewardship Campaign and the connection it may have with the Capital Project exploring the possibility of major improvements to the church, coupled with a low cost housing project. Let's be clear, the role of the Stewardship Campaign is to ensure that the church has the operating funds to pay the bills for services including heat, power, and water as well as the salaries of staff. **It does not fund capital projects.**

The past year has seen our congregation continue to grow; more adults and children every Sunday and a host of weekly activities. One would think that our modest operating budget would be comparatively easy to meet. Yet, at the end of September, contributions were \$40,000 lower than expenditures and the possibility looms that we may have a year-end deficit.

Clearly, our financial position with the operating budget must improve. As mentioned above, the church has monthly bills, whether you attend or not, so we strongly encourage you to use a giving vehicle such as:

- PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)
- credit card
- post-dated cheques

The church needs a stronger, more predictable cash flow. We anticipate the congregation will need to commit **\$350,000** to meet the cost of church operations over the next 12 months. Give this issue serious thought and if possible, move Hillhurst up in your list of priorities. **Remember Hillhurst operates exclusively on funds received from you.** There is no recourse; no magic wand, just the congregation.

The enclosed Pledge card itemizes various giving options. **Please fill out and return it by Sunday Nov. 29.** The donation of securities instead of cash has not been emphasized in the past but can have significant tax advantages for some donors. Dan Wares, chair of our Finance Committee, is knowledgeable on the subject and will be hosting sessions over the next few months to explain this option. Look for an announcement in the Bulletin and contact Dan.

Hillhurst is at a fork in the road and exciting times are ahead. Whatever the route, we must ensure that we have the fare to cover our operating expenses. Otherwise, as Yogi said; we may end up somewhere else.


Wally Peters


Marilyn King


Dan Wares


Jack Manns


Sherry Philpott

The 2009-2010 Stewardship Committee