

Notes from the Board [JAN. 2011]

Greetings and best wishes for a wonderful and blessed New Year from the Board.

✓ One of the resolutions the Board has adopted for the new year is to keep the congregation more regularly updated about items for celebration, areas of concern and even just subjects for discussion.

We will try to have a **short update in the weekly bulletin** following each of the Board meetings. The minutes for each meeting will still be available for any member of the congregation at the Welcome Centre, but these updates should provide a better sense of openness and communication for everyone.

✓ Several volunteer leaders attended December's Board meeting to report on progress and to share information. Representatives from the **Ministry & Personnel team** were present, in part, to initiate a discussion about steps to consider in trying to fill the gap left by Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz' return to school. We are very blessed by all of our staff at WSquare and want to make sure they are properly supported.

✓ Russ Jackson attended to report on the Capital Campaign. Both the building and the campaign are in good shape—many, many thanks to everyone involved. The next steps are already in motion toward a new **Audio-Visual system for the sanctuary**, and the **retiling of the Graceland hallways**. We should see progress on both these projects in the near future.

✓ John Anderson (and sometimes Ruth Ferry) now regularly join Board meetings to **report on financial matters**, and offer valuable insights. This has been a great help and we appreciate their presence. In December, we were also joined by representatives from the Stewardship team and the Trustees. While many good things are happening, there are also a

few areas drawing our attention. We have been informed that Presbytery has recently changed the formula used to determine each congregation's assessment. This assessment is the amount of money each congregation pays to Presbytery to enable both its work and the national church's work. Under the new formula, Wellington Square's assessment will now be \$19,000 for 2011 rather than the \$10,000 we had expected and which appears in our budget. Obviously this is a concern to be worked on. Another concern is our income shortfall. On a per envelope basis, congregational givings are up 4.8% over last year—which is great—however the number of envelopes is down significantly resulting in the shortfall. More specific figures will be available shortly.

✓ The Finance team has requested a change in financial reporting. They propose **returning to a Dec. 31 year end**, rather than the current June 30. There are several reasons for this including being more in line with Revenue Canada's reporting requirements for charities, simplifying preparation of income tax T4's, and facilitating the preparation of budgets in time for Annual Congregational Meetings each year. Our team leaders are all aware of and support this idea. Congregational approval would be required to make this move so a **Congregational Meeting** is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, March 29**.

✓ The New Year will bring its own challenges but many blessings as well. Be sure to mark **Sunday, January 30** on the calendar to attend our building **Rededication Service and Celebration**.

Blessings to all, from your Board,
*Tish, Lindsay, Pam, Alvin, Jeremy,
Rob, Alicia, Sharon, Katie & Orville*