

**Steel City Mennonite Church**  
**Mid-Week Connection**  
**October 1, 2014**

**Shared by Scott Richards, Chair of Church Council and of the Congregation, on Sunday, September 28, 2014**

**SCMC - STRETCH GIVING**

Church Council and Finance Commission have met in regards to our growing church budget deficit. Our YTD budget has a deficit of over **\$30,000 dollars**. Our church leaders are asking if you can unite and partner with us as we work together to bring our budget back to even, to continue our daily church operations while growing His Kingdom.

This church has a beautiful new facility with a wide variety of programs & events, which allows each one of us to participate and grow in His Word. Around 15 years ago, this very church went out on faith and was stretched financially and this church family prayed and was blessed. We paid off our debt and doubled our weekly Sunday attendance from an average of 80 people on a Sunday to an average of 160+ people a Sunday.

I am standing before you today, as the head of Church Council, asking if you are willing to walk in faith and unite with this great church. Asking if each of you are willing to be **STRETCHED** in your giving & support of this church.

We see multiple times throughout scripture when God's people have given a tithe or more of what they earn back to him in gratitude for his love and are blessed in multiple ways.

We read in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8: "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

We also read in Malachi 3:10: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Those scriptures are written guarantees to each one of us.

Each one of us from the Front to the Back to the Left and the Right are not exempt from rising costs of utilities, insurance, taxes, food, you name it. The question is, upon prayer, **WHAT IS YOUR STRETCH?** Is it \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, or \$100 per week. I do not know your finances, but when we press into God and have a conversation with Him, He will bless you over and over again. Please do not misunderstand what I am saying, we will not become financial millionaires, but as we have read in scripture, God will bless you and his church abundantly and at the end of each month, he will provide.

**My Challenge** to each one of us today is **WHAT IS YOUR STRETCH?** Let us unite together so that the floodgates of heaven will pour out upon this great church and his people.

Join us for an **Evening of Prayer** tonight (Wednesday) in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. We will be focusing our prayer on the United States and those in authority over us.

The **Evangelism Commission** will meet Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the Youth Room.

The **Cleansing Stream Seminar** continues on Sunday evening at 6 p.m. with "Session Three 3: Committing Everything to God".

The **Elders** will meet on Monday evening at 7 p.m.

Meet for **Weekly Koffee and Konversation** at the Hellertown Diner on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. Come and enjoy a great time of fellowship together!

**Attention Ladies!** Our October event is a trip to **Ott's Exotic Plants** in Schwenksville on Thursday, October 9! If you are interested in this event, please sign up on the sheet provided. We will leave at 9:30 a.m. and stop for lunch on the way home. Everyone that went on our last excursion seemed to have an enjoyable time!! Join us!

This year's **Church Retreat at Spruce Lake Retreat Center**, October 24-26, will be "A Praying Life: Learning to Pray in a Distracting World". Due to the fact that the speaker needs to fly home Saturday afternoon, his portion of the retreat will be Friday evening and Saturday morning. Please note that the Friday evening session will begin at 7:00 pm. If you did not previously reply to Becky Bergey's email and sign up for the retreat and you now wish to attend, please sign up in the foyer as soon as possible. If you indicated that you were going to attend and cannot do so, please cross your name off the list. The cost of the retreat to the church is \$382 per couple with no children or children who are 5 and under. If a family needs two rooms, the cost to the church is \$648. Meals for additional adults are \$58 per person and for children ages 6-11, it is \$29 per person. The church is only charging \$100 per adult (\$200 versus \$382) and \$30 per child 6-18. However, if you are able to pay the full amount that Spruce Lake charges the church, that would be very greatly appreciated.  
Thank you!

**Attention Couples!!** The Marriage Retreat Committee has several events coming up that have been planned just for you! On Saturday, October 18, we will be having **Dinner and a Movie** at the church. The potluck supper will be at 5:30 p.m. followed by the movie, "Mom's Night Out" at 6:30 p.m. Babysitting will be provided. If you would like to attend, please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. Put the following items on your calendars: **Sweetheart Banquet**, February 14; **Marriage Retreat at Spruce Lake**, March 6-8.

**Next Week's Four Streams Bible Reading Plan:** October 5, Matthew 10-12, Isaiah 65-66, Psalm 79, Proverbs 9; October 6, Matthew 13-15, Jeremiah 1-2, Psalm 80; October 7, Matthew 16-18, Jeremiah 3-5, Psalm 81; October 8, Matthew 19-21, Jeremiah 6-7; October 9, Matthew 22-24, Jeremiah 8-9, Psalm 82; October 10, Matthew 25-26, Jeremiah 10-11, Psalm 83, Proverbs 10; October 11, Matthew 27-28, Jeremiah 12-13, Psalm 84.

**This Week:** **Nursery Staff**, Lydia Mohler and Alicia Smith; **Greeters**, Mark & Nancy Walters; **Worship Team Leader**, Sandy Faust; **Ushers**, Scott Richards, Lee Walters, John Cressman, Randy Willard and Neal Kempf.

**Please Pray For . . .** **Jessica Vaughn**, and her work in China; **Deane & Krystal Weaver**, serving in Chile; **Nicolas & Jennifer Haddad**, serving in Lebanon; **New Bethany Ministries**, in Bethlehem; **Persecuted Christians around the world**; **Bob Bohning**, as he seeks treatment for his hip; **Chuck Hittinger**; **Becky Hutchinson**; and **Rob & Denise Ibach**.