



“Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices...”

I invite you to consider how each of us are God’s helping hands at Woodlawn Chapel. Every day at Woodlawn, our hands are the hands of Christ in this world.

*Our hands fold in prayer for those we lift before God;
Our hands bless our children and youth as they grow in faith;
Our hands lift up friends who caught by the snares of struggles.*

But our hands do more: we lift them in praise to God, from whom all blessings flows. Our hands reach out to neighbors in need through the ministries of Circle of Concern. Our hands clip coupons, wrap Christmas presents, write checks, and open doors. This year, we celebrate the ways we have been God’s helping hands:

- ◆ Our youth group attended a meaningful mission opportunity presented by Heifer Project International, with generous scholarship assistance by members of the church;
- ◆ We have provided generous monthly assistance to Terri Rider as she continues to serve as a missionary in India;
- ◆ Our children’s ministry is growing because of your gifts which enabled us to hire Janine Muntean as a part-time coordinator. We give thanks for volunteers who researched a new curriculum, led a powerful Vacation Bible School, and allowed little hands to show God’s praise.
- ◆ Our “all hands on deck” opportunity to welcome the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy this summer resulted in a positive response from nearly every family at Woodlawn Chapel.

We are thankful for these gift-- but we also know we can do more. These are our challenges for 2012:

Increasing membership participation in fellowship, worship, outreach, and mission;

Sustaining our financial needs through careful planning and stewardship;

Thriving spiritually through prayer, service, and learning so that all God’s children may experience the joy of faith.

Enclosed in this packet are tools which will guide us in becoming God’s helping hands. You’ll find a narrative budget which tells the story behind our operating budget, and a “step chart” indicating the array of weekly giving. Finally, there are two cards included for your response. One is the traditional pledge card for those who wish to pledge. The other is a “response card” for those who may not be pledging but who still wish to estimate their giving.

Sunday, November 13 is Dedication Sunday. Everyone is needed that day to complete the US Congregational Life Survey and offer our commitments to God. Please consider how you can be God’s helping hand. Blessings!

Giving from our abundance

“On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn...” 1 Corinthians 16:2)

How do we become God’s helping hands? Earlier this fall, we dedicated a tree in honor of Howard Gleason’s ministry and in memory of those who died on September 11, 2001. As that tree matures, we will be able to see its branches grow, its shape broaden. In a same way, we who wish to grow spiritually become God’s helping hands through regular, intentional, and proportional giving.

- ⇒ *Regular:* Set a weekly giving goal. If this is new to you, think of what you might spend on a meal out. Set that aside for God either by using the envelopes we provide or by a regular bank draft.
- ⇒ *Intentional:* As the tree grows, it will require intentional shaping and nourishment. Similarly, your giving goal will be sustained through prayer, and joyful determination to offer God your best.
- ⇒ *Proportional:* Many of us are afraid of the word “tithe.” We think, “There is no way I can reach that level of giving.” Instead of not setting a goal, prayerfully consider what proportion of income you can dedicate to God...and then consider how that may be increased gradually.



Staffing: \$186,135

- Like most churches, personnel expenses are the largest part of our mission. Our staff helps guide the vision of who we want to become as a thriving congregation. This figure includes: salaries & expenses for the pastor, youth minister, children's coordinator, music director and secretary.



Mission: \$9,600

Woodlawn Chapel's mission committee strives to fulfill Christ's command to love God and neighbor. We coordinate a variety of events throughout the year, such as the Mother's Day Baskets, our food collections for Circle of

Concern, and our Christmas mission. In mission, we grow in love and service. Our commitment to mission includes:

- Budget support for our Mother's Day mission (\$500);
- Monthly support for Terri Rider (\$1,200 annually).
- Mission pledge to Presbytery (\$5,444);
- 50% of our per capita assessment to Presbytery (the balance comes from members who donate the cost of their per capita.);
- Local mission & miscellaneous funds (\$1,800).
- In addition, we give thanks for those who contribute to special offerings such as One Great Hour of Sharing, and the Deacon's Fund. Our Deacon's Fund provides assistance to members in need—which has included utility assistance, food, medical help, and assistance with school expenses.

Worship: \$7,090

This figure has remained unchanged for several years. It fuels the mission of the Worship Ministry committee "to create a worship atmosphere enabling each participant to glorify God and receive God's love." Your contributions help achieve this through:

- Maintaining our piano, sound system, and bells, and purchasing new music Bell & Chancel Choirs;
- Providing child care during Wednesday evening rehearsals, encouraging young families to participate in our music ministry;
- Arranging for special musicians, maintenance of our pianos, seasonal décor, providing flowers and worship supplies;
- Special worship services.

Education: \$11,000

Our education ministry to children, youth, and adults builds life-long patterns of discipleship and service. We do this by:

- Purchasing curriculum for elementary Sunday School, and offering special events such as the Christmas play;
- Offering a completely self-supporting VBS for 60-70 children in our community each July;
- Supporting our middle and senior high youth through summer events, mission projects, and weekly fellowship;
- Preparing "college care kits" for our students.
- Providing guest speakers, curriculum, and resources for the work of our Adult Education team.

Property: \$56,575

The property, building & grounds ministry team has as its mission "to maintain the building and grounds, and in a timely manner to make required repairs and schedule routine maintenance on items such as HVAC units, and to keep the church grounds well groomed." This mission is fulfilled through:

- Snow removal, lawn maintenance & repairs;
- Twice weekly custodial services;
- Maintaining 11 heating and cooling units;
- Interior maintenance, repair and supplies;
- Mortgage payments, insurance;
- Utilities such as gas, water, electricity & sewer.

Administrative Expenses: \$24,750

This includes office expenses, budget for the Session and Stewardship committee, printing and copying, telephone, postage, web site, and office supplies and equipment.

Membership & Fellowship: \$4,120

Our membership & fellowship committees strive to create environments of hospitality and welcome. The mission of our membership committee is "to create a welcoming and spiritually nurturing environment for guests and new members, providing open doors to encourage and enable people to become disciples of Jesus Christ." Your contributions helped to support:

- Printed invitations, mailers & flyers;
- Coffee on Sunday mornings;
- Special events, such as our Ice Cream Social and Fall Festival, our "Thanks" and "Giving" dinner, receptions, potluck dinners and other all church celebrations.

Mother's Day Out: \$74,121

- Our Mom's Day Out, funded primarily through tuition, welcomes approximately 60 children each week. Their budget includes salaries for a director and teachers, as well as ongoing expenses. Our enrollment grew slightly this fall, and a new coordinating team has been appointed to review the operating expenses, policies, and staffing procedures. The program is offered four days a week for children aged 1-4.

We are God's Helping Hands!



Christ has no hands but ours: Every day, Woodlawn Chapel members are sent by God into the world to be God's helping hands. Clockwise from left, top: VBS is held annually in July and is a strong outreach to our community. Our youth learned about global poverty during a mission experience at Heifer Ranch in July, attending with youth from Hope UCC in St. Louis. Mission support to Terri Rider in India assists her medical mission through Ideas in Bangalore. Here a young Muslim woman from another Ideas program displays a hand stitched pillow case with a scripture she gave to Terri. Taryn and Christopher Muntean help carry the light of faith for us, and Martha Faris and Cindy Capatosta trade smiles during VBS. Contributions to Circle of Concern's food pantry tripled last year thanks to our Coupon Club's lively mission efforts.



Hearts, Hands & Voices Sunday November 13

Friends:

I urge every member of the Woodlawn Chapel family — visitors, members new and old, youth over 15—to join us November 13 to participate in taking the US Congregational Life Survey. Woodlawn has been chosen as part of a select group of churches in the United States to participate. Your opinions will not only help our congregation through a detailed analysis, but will be useful in comparing our church to congregations across the country. It is very important that everyone attend! In this season of giving thanks, I give thanks for each of you, and pray you'll join us November 13! In addition, our annual Thanks & Giving dinner will be held at 5:30 that evening.

In Christ,

Chris Keating

Our Mission:

As God's people, we are called to worship, to pray, to teach, to help and to celebrate.

Our Core Values:

Hospitality – Spirituality – Service/Leadership

Our Vision:

To be a living, learning, loving family in Christ



16520 Clayton Road,
Wildwood, MO 63011