



## **Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting July 13, 2014**

### **Prayer and Call to Meeting**

Pastor Tim called the meeting to order and opened in prayer.

### **Roll Call**

Mark Culton conducted the roll call.

- Deacons Present: Rob Christiansen, George Hardy, Mark Hardy, Kevin Kritzberger, Joe Meier
- Deacons Excused: Kamba Kalubi, John Romero
- Elders Present: Tim Gibson, Dick Bickings, Mark Culton, Wayne Batten, Andy Brimer, Scott Holwick, Shawn Sommons
- Elders Excused: Byron Roth

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** was made to approve the minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting held on January 19, 2014, seconded and passed.

### **Updated Articles of Faith**

Pastor Dick Bickings walked us through the recent changes to the Articles of Faith - Article 21: "The Lord's Day" and Article 27: "The Kingdom of God" (formerly "The Millennium")

- Presentation to Explain the reason for the change (Attachment #1)
- Updated Articles 21 & 27 (Attachment #2)
- Previous Version of Articles 21 & 27 (Attachment #3)

### **Pastoral Reports**

In the following order, each Pastor provided a brief review of their ministries so far in 2014, along with vision for 2014 in accordance with the church's recent vision and purpose statement. They also acknowledged individuals, teams and/or staff members for their service in building God's kingdom.

#### **1) Pastor Tim Gibson, Senior Pastor highlighted the following:**

##### **a) The 3-fold Purpose of Ebenezer**

- Worship God
- Reach the Lost
- Build Believers

##### **b) Vision Points**

- We want to be a **church** where people are transformed by the Word of God
- To be a **community** of believers united by worship, prayer, and service.
- A **fellowship** of people who exercise the love of Christ for each other through caring, sharing, and fellowship.
- **Reaching arms** of the gospel through individual evangelism as well as through missions, outreach

##### **c) Other**

- Preaching – We are committed to expository preaching - the backbone is being faithful to an author's intent. We will be in the book of Hebrews into the fall. Tim asked the congregation to continue to pray for the preaching - it is not just an academic exercise,

but where the Holy Spirit can work in our hearts. The Word of God is central, the backbone of our ministry.

- LEAD Class – We had almost 30 men who went through the LEAD class. Next time there will be a new class in January or February - a more intense 5 or 6 sessions rather than as many as last time.
- Deacons – We are praying for more deacons.
- Wednesday Nights this Summer – Wednesday night there is a theology class and a prayer meeting
- Membership Class – A new membership class will be held in September.
- Sunday Attendance – Attendance has been lower in the summer. We are not ready for 3 services. We are planning the process of the streaming ministry for shut-ins and a possible overflow service.
- Congregational Care Pastor – We still believe that we would benefit greatly from a part-time pastor who would help carry the load of visitation and congregational care. We are still fine-tuning the job description. The biggest struggle is finding someone who is part of Ebenezer (or becomes part of Ebenezer). We don't want to merely hire someone; we want them to be part of us.

**2) Pastor Dick Bickings, Pastor of Discipleship highlighted the following:**

**a) Children's Ministry**

- Gospel Project is immersed in the Word of God and fits into our vision of a focus on Scripture.
- We used Lifeway's VBS this past year. We had about 140 kids and 70 volunteers.

**b) Kinship**

**3) Pastor Mark Culton, Youth Pastor highlighted the following:**

**a) Light in the Park** – very rewarding to see our teens sharing their faith and being used by God to bring children to Christ

**b) Light in the City**

- Begins this week!
- Pray and get involved where you can!
- Believes LITC is important not just for our youth but for our whole church as we seek to be the "reaching arms" into our community.

**c) Mentoring** – We hope to ramp up the mentoring ministry again at some point - we are always looking for mentors, growth group leaders and youth staff.

**Financial Report**

Treasurer and Elder Andy Brimer reviewed finances for 2014 so far. (Attachment #4) He began by giving praise for how all of our needs were met this past year. God is good! In addition to reviewing the information in the report through the use of slides, Andy also shared other comments:

- We are \$18,000 shy of where we hope to be.
- Our assets - we are in a satisfactory position where we continue to seek to be faithful stewards.
- Overall - we are at 96% income and 94% expenses.
- Stewardship
  - o Are you using your spiritual gifts?
  - o Give cheerfully from what God has given you
  - o Ways to Give - online giving or envelopes

### **Election of Nominating Committee**

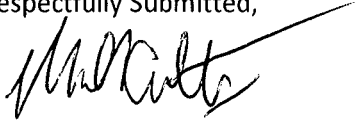
The following individuals were approved by vote of secret ballot to be on the Nominating Committee:

- Tim Gibson
- Wayne Batten
- Donna D'Imperio
- Dennis Flanagan
- Chris Jones
- Kevin Kritzberger
- Shelly Penchick

### **Prayer and Adjournment-**

**Motion** was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and passed. Pastor Tim Gibson closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Culton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Culton  
Secretary to the Board of Elders

## BFC Articles of Faith Change

Articles 21: The Lord's Day

Article 27: The Kingdom of God

## Articles 21: The Lord's Day

### **Old Reading:**

21-1 The first day of the week has been recognized by the Church as the Lord's Day since apostolic times. We believe, therefore, that it ought to be observed by all believers, voluntarily and in love, as a continuation of the sabbath principle, a day of remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord from the dead and a day of worship of God, rest from physical toil, service for the Master, and fellowship of the saints. Christians should engage only in duties of necessity and mercy on the Lord's Day.



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## Articles 21: The Lord's Day

### New Reading:

21-1 The first day of the week has been recognized by the Church as the Lord's Day since apostolic times. We believe, therefore, that it ought to be observed by all believers, voluntarily and in love, as a day **set apart as holy to the Lord for the corporate worship of God**, remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord from the dead, **and fellowship and mutual encouragement of the saints.**



## Articles 21: The Lord's Day Change Justification

*"Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath." (Colossians 2:16, ESV)*

*"One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind." (Romans 14:5, ESV)*

## Articles 21: The Lord's Day Change Justification

- Paul, writing to the Romans concerning Christian Liberty
- Certainly in Paul's day, as well as today, there are Christians that do not keep the Sabbath
- Paul's reaction to this fact is not a lament that some Christian would violate the Fourth Commandment
- His response is at the end of verse five: "each person must be fully convinced in his own mind."



## Articles 27: The Kingdom of God

### **Old Reading (The Millennium):**

27-1 The Millennium is that aspect of the Kingdom of God that will be ushered in when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to the Earth to rule in righteousness. The unfulfilled Messianic prophecies will then be completed. During this period, Satan will be bound and his deceitful activities thus restricted. The created universe will undergo a transformation, with universal prosperity and peace prevailing on earth. The saints will reign with Christ, and the earth will be full of the knowledge and glory of the Lord.

## Articles 27: The Kingdom of God

### **New Reading (The Kingdom of God):**

27-1 God is the almighty Sovereign who reigns eternally over all His creation. His kingdom triumphs forever according to His will. Even the sinful rebellion of mankind cannot defeat Him, but instead serves and glorifies Him.



## Articles 27: The Kingdom of God

### **New Reading (The Kingdom of God):**

27-2 God's plan, demonstrated throughout human history, has been to reveal His kingship on earth by delegating kingly dominion to human beings as His image bearers. Through Adam's fall the exercise of this dominion has been corrupted, and man needs redemption in order to glorify God and reign in accordance with His will. As the Last Adam, Jesus in His humanity manifests the proper vice-regency of the kingdom of God for the purpose of redemption and restoration, which will ultimately usher in the glorious kingdom for which creation was destined. Thus, the kingdom of God is advanced in Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension, and His present reign. Acknowledging this reign, Christians confess Christ as Lord and willingly submit to His rulership in their personal lives and welcome His authority over all creation.

## Articles 27: The Kingdom of God

### **New Reading (The Kingdom of God):**

27-3 The millennial reign of Christ is a further advancement of the kingdom whereby Jesus, through His second coming, brings His inaugurated kingdom to earth and makes it visible. During this reign, Christ will fulfill kingdom promises as He establishes righteousness, justice and peace throughout all creation. At the start of this period, saints will be resurrected bodily to join in the reign with Christ. Satan will be bound and his deceitful activities suspended. Nevertheless an undercurrent of human sinful resistance will continue through the millennium, though held in check as Christ rules with a rod of iron. At the end of this millennial reign, Satan will be released to lead a rebellion against God's people and the Lord Jesus. In a climactic manifestation of His kingship, Christ will defeat the rebellion.



## Articles 27: The Kingdom of God

### **New Reading (The Kingdom of God):**

27-4 When Christ has subdued all enemies, including death, He will present the kingdom to His Father. The triune God will preside over a new heaven and a new earth, and the people of God will dwell with Him forever. All prophecies of Scripture will have been fulfilled. God's eternal kingship, having been established and vindicated by the royal exercise of the Son's authority, will at that time be present and manifest in full glory over all creation forever and ever.

## Articles 27: The Kingdom of God Change Justification

*"At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;" (Daniel 4:34, ESV)*

*"But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom." (Hebrews 1:8, ESV)*

## Articles 27: The Kingdom of God Change Justification

- Throughout the NT, Jesus refers to His kingdom as existing now (see the Lord's Prayer in Matt. 6:10)
- Jesus tells us to seek first the Kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33)
- Jesus says the Kingdom is at hand, so repent and believe the gospel (Mark 1:14-15)
- There is therefore an "already, not yet" aspect of the Kingdom of God.



# Updated BFC Articles of Faith

as of 4/29/14

## Article 21: The Lord's Day

**21-1** The first day of the week has been recognized by the Church as the Lord's Day since apostolic times<sup>1</sup>. We believe, therefore, that it ought to be observed by all believers, voluntarily and in love<sup>2</sup>, as a day set apart as holy to the Lord for the corporate worship of God<sup>3</sup>, remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord from the dead, and fellowship and mutual encouragement of the saints.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mark 16:9; John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 14:5; Gal 5:13

<sup>3</sup> Heb. 10:23-25

<sup>4</sup> Acts 2:42; Eph. 5:15-21; Col. 3:16

## Article 27: The Kingdom of God

**27-1** God is the almighty Sovereign who reigns eternally over all His creation.<sup>1</sup> His kingdom triumphs forever according to His will. Even the sinful rebellion of mankind cannot defeat Him, but instead serves and glorifies Him.<sup>2</sup>

**27-2** God's plan, demonstrated throughout human history, has been to reveal His kingship on earth by delegating kingly dominion to human beings as His image bearers.<sup>3</sup> Through Adam's fall the exercise of this dominion has been corrupted, and man needs redemption in order to glorify God and reign in accordance with His will. As the Last Adam, Jesus in His humanity manifests the proper vice-regency of the kingdom of God for the purpose of redemption and restoration, which will ultimately usher in the glorious kingdom for which creation was destined.<sup>4</sup> Thus, the kingdom of God is advanced in Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension, and His present reign.<sup>5</sup> Acknowledging this reign, Christians confess Christ as Lord and willingly submit to His rulership in their personal lives and welcome His authority over all creation.<sup>6</sup>

**27-3** The millennial reign of Christ is a further advancement of the kingdom whereby Jesus, through His second coming, brings His inaugurated kingdom to earth and makes it visible. During this reign, Christ will fulfill kingdom promises as He establishes righteousness, justice and peace throughout all creation.<sup>7</sup> At the start of this period, saints will be resurrected bodily to join in the reign with Christ. Satan will be bound and his deceitful activities suspended. Nevertheless an undercurrent of human sinful resistance will continue through the millennium, though held in check as Christ rules with a rod of iron. At the end of this millennial reign, Satan will be released to lead a rebellion against God's people and the Lord Jesus. In a climactic manifestation of His kingship, Christ will defeat the rebellion.<sup>8</sup>

**27-4** When Christ has subdued all enemies, including death, He will present the kingdom to His Father.<sup>9</sup> The triune God will preside over a new heaven and a new earth, and the people of God will dwell with Him forever.<sup>10</sup> All prophecies of Scripture will have been fulfilled. God's eternal kingship, having been established and vindicated by the royal exercise of the Son's authority, will at that time be present and manifest in full glory over all creation forever and ever.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all (Psa. 103:19). His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation” (Dan. 4:34).

<sup>2</sup> The LORD works out everything for his own ends – even the wicked for a day of disaster (Prov. 16:4). Surely the wrath of men brings you praise, and with the remainder of wrath you arm yourself” (Psa. 76:10)

<sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground” (Gen. 1:26).

<sup>4</sup> For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ (Rom 5:17). The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God (Rom. 8:19-21).

<sup>5</sup> But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone (Heb. 2:9). For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “The Lord said to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet’” (Acts 2:34-35). But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom” (Heb. 1:8).

<sup>6</sup> If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved (Rom. 10:9-10). Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10).

<sup>7</sup> I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. ... On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Rev. 19:11,16). He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore (Isa. 2:4). With righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked (Isa. 11:4).

<sup>8</sup> He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ... When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth – Gog and Magog – to gather them for battle ... But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever (Rev. 20:2-4, 7-10).

<sup>9</sup> Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery (Psa. 2:8-9). Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death (1 Cor. 15:24-26).

<sup>10</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away (Rev. 21:1). No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever (Rev. 22:3-5).

## Article 21 - The Lord's Day

**21-1** The first day of the week has been recognized by the Church as the Lord's Day since apostolic times.<sup>1</sup> We believe, therefore, that it ought to be observed by all believers, voluntarily and in love, as a continuation of the sabbath principle,<sup>2</sup> a day of remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord from the dead and a day of worship of God, rest from physical toil, service for the Master, and fellowship of the saints. Christians should engage only in duties of necessity and mercy on the Lord's Day.

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons (Mark 16:9). Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" (John 20:1,19). On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight (Acts 20:7). On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made (1 Cor. 16:2).

<sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done (Gen. 2:2,3). Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27,28).

## Article 27 - The Millennium

**27-1** The Millennium is that aspect of the Kingdom of God that will be ushered in when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to the Earth to rule in righteousness. The unfulfilled Messianic prophecies will then be completed.<sup>1</sup> During this period, Satan will be bound and his deceitful activities<sup>2</sup> thus restricted. The created universe will undergo a transformation,<sup>3</sup> with universal prosperity and peace prevailing on earth.<sup>4</sup> The saints will reign with Christ,<sup>5</sup> and the earth will be full of the knowledge and glory of the Lord.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. "So then, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when people will no longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,' but they will say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.' Then they will live in their own land." (Jer. 23:5-8). (See also Isa. 9:6,7).

<sup>2</sup> And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time (Rev. 20:1-3).  
<sup>3</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:6-9). (See also Rom. 8:19-23).

<sup>4</sup> He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore (Isa. 2:4). The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow (Isa. 35:1,2,7).

<sup>5</sup> You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth (Rev. 5:10).

<sup>6</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:9). Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear (Isa. 45:22,23).

## Financial Update

- The Bottom Line
- Stewardship

### The Bottom Line

God has provided for ALL of our needs!

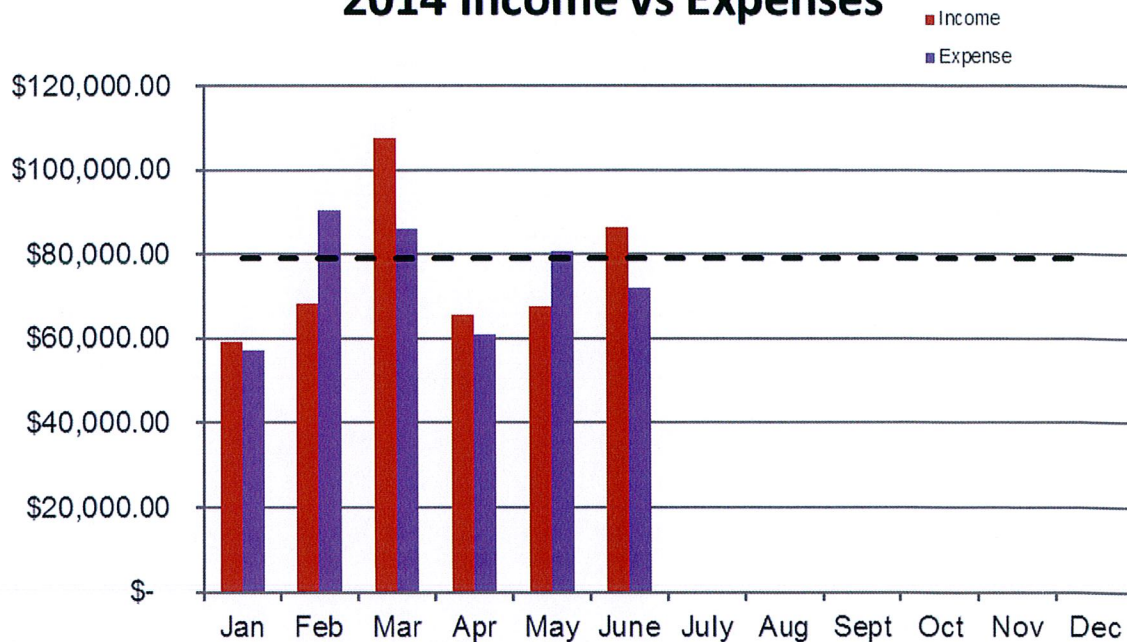
#### Offering Summary

	January – June
<b>BUDGET: Target for total offerings</b>	\$467,139
<b>ACTUAL: Offerings Received</b>	\$449,230
<b>Amount <b>Needed</b> to reach budget target</b>	<b>\$17,909</b>



# Giving Overview

## 2014 Income vs Expenses



Note: Monthly Target Budget \$79,014

## The Bottom Line

ASSETS	30-Jun-14	31-Dec-13	\$ Change
<b>Assets - Checking/Savings</b>			
18000 · Checking (KNBT)	481,129.16	506,289.49	-25,160.33
18002 · CDs (KNBT)	67,461.48	67,134.49	326.99
19000 · Savings (M&T Bank)	90,724.80	90,679.83	44.97
19001 · Checking (M&T Bank)	5,375.67	5,375.67	0.00
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>644,691.11</b>	<b>669,479.48</b>	<b>-24,788.37</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>644,691.11</b>	<b>669,479.48</b>	<b>-24,788.37</b>

	January – June	Budgeted Amount YTD	% Budget YTD
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$455,470</b>	<b>\$474,082</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$447,314</b>	<b>\$478,402</b>	<b>94%</b>



# The Bottom Line

## LIABILITIES

<b><i>Current Liabilities</i></b>	<b>30-Jun-14</b>	<b>31-Dec-13</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>
Building Fund	88,304.19	82,096.19	6,208.00
Capital Improvement Fund	-32,283.30	0.00	-32,283.30
Transportation Fund	88.00	18.00	70.00
Scholarship Fund	2,981.50	1,717.50	1,264.00
Faith Promise	23,680.69	30,341.69	-6,661.00
Benevolence Fund	18,009.12	13,391.30	4,617.82
Music Fund	144.20	49.20	95.00
Youth Summer Missions	-694.44	105.73	-800.17

## Stewardship

- Are you doing everything God requires of you?
  - Serve using your Spiritual Gifts
  - Give cheerfully from what God has given you
- Ways to Give
  - Online Giving
  - Envelopes
    - Pew - clearly mark with first and last name
    - Numbered Envelopes