

# Can We Support An Evangelist?

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Hagerstown Church of Christ

16-November-2025

# 2017 vs 2025 Budgets

Budget 7/1/2017 Through 6/30/2017 Using Budget 2017			
7/1/2017	1/1/2017	6/30/2017	Page 1
Category Description	Actual	Budget	Difference
<b>INCOME</b>			
Contributions	106,468.69	115,412.02	-8,943.33
Other Contrib.	2,440.75	0.00	2,440.75
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>110,909.44</b>	<b>115,412.02</b>	<b>-4,502.58</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Building	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cable (Internet)	737.40	737.52	0.12
Cleaning	2,690.00	2,690.02	-129.98
Copy Machine	1,019.28	832.52	-186.76
Electricity	2,970.07	3,854.52	-884.45
Maintenance	10,865.36	15,000.00	-4,134.64
Mortgage	23,496.26	24,000.00	-503.74
Propane	3,562.74	5,827.02	-2,264.28
Property Ins.	2,500.50	2,261.02	-239.48
Supplies	715.50	426.52	-288.98
Technology	0.00	924.52	924.52
<b>TOTAL Building</b>	<b>48,867.11</b>	<b>55,823.08</b>	<b>-7,335.97</b>
Education	0.00	0.00	0.00
Class Materials	402.79	1,019.02	-616.23
Library Expense	149.13	158.02	-8.89
Vacation Bible School	0.00	1,118.02	1,118.02
<b>TOTAL Education</b>	<b>551.92</b>	<b>2,295.06</b>	<b>-1,743.14</b>
Evangelism	0.00	0.00	0.00
Local Evangelism	0.00	102.00	102.00
Youth Program	920.91	1,577.52	-656.61
<b>TOTAL Evangelism</b>	<b>920.91</b>	<b>1,679.52</b>	<b>-758.61</b>
Missions	0.00	0.00	0.00
Croatia	3,300.00	3,300.00	0.00
Nigeria	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daniel Bai (SBS @ Jos)	2,400.00	2,400.00	0.00
Steve Worley	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL Nigeria</b>	<b>3,600.00</b>	<b>3,600.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Scotland	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL Missions</b>	<b>8,100.00</b>	<b>8,100.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Preacher	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lectureship	0.00	204.00	204.00
Salary	31,798.04	32,410.50	-612.46
<b>TOTAL Preacher</b>	<b>31,798.04</b>	<b>32,614.50</b>	<b>-816.46</b>
Work	0.00	0.00	0.00
Activities-general	1,213.87	5,172.52	-3,958.65
Benevolence	610.95	3,117.52	-2,506.57
Office Supplies	397.95	833.52	-435.57
Postage	291.39	378.52	-87.13
Secretarial (Sub-Ctrl)	4,262.50	4,567.02	-304.52
<b>TOTAL Work</b>	<b>6,776.66</b>	<b>13,869.10</b>	<b>-7,092.44</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>97,036.64</b>	<b>115,412.34</b>	<b>18,375.70</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>13,872.80</b>	<b>-0.32</b>	<b>13,873.12</b>

Current Budget 7/1/2025 Through 6/30/2025 Using Budget 2025			
7/1/2025	1/1/2025	6/30/2025	
Category	Actual	Budget	Difference
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>71,453.86</b>	<b>86,140.00</b>	<b>-14,686.14</b>
Contributions	71,453.86	86,140.00	-14,686.14
<b>PERSONAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>65,688.73</b>	<b>86,140.00</b>	<b>-20,451.27</b>
Building: Cable (Internet)	869.40	870.00	-0.60
Building: Cleaning	3,438.80	3,444.00	-5.20
Building: Copy Machine	832.82	848.00	-15.18
Building: Electricity	2,110.86	1,956.00	-154.86
Building: Maintenance	3,030.21	2,540.00	-490.21
Building: Mortgage	24,000.00	24,000.00	0.00
Building: Propane	6,555.14	2,436.00	-4,119.14
Building: Property Ins.	4,825.85	4,508.00	-317.85
Building: Supplies	889.47	1,068.00	-178.53
Building: Technology	23.17	96.00	-72.83
Education: Class Materials	252.37	162.00	-90.37
Education: Library Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
Education: Vacation Bible School	489.36	488.00	1.36
Evangelism: Local Evangelism	806.00	548.00	-258.00
Evangelism: Youth Program	59.61	78.00	-18.39
Missions: Croatia	3,300.00	3,300.00	0.00
Missions: Nigeria: Daniel Bai (SBS @ Jos)	2,400.00	2,400.00	0.00
Missions: Nigeria: Steve Worley	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
Preacher: Salary	0.00	25,002.00	25,002.00
Work: Activities-general	102.12	36.00	-66.12
Work: Benevolence	2,752.91	3,552.00	-799.09
Work: Office Supplies	573.00	348.00	-225.00
Work: Postage	229.72	240.00	-10.28
Work: Secretarial (Sub-Ctrl)	6,928.63	6,714.00	-214.63
<b>PERSONAL INCOME</b>	<b>225.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>225.00</b>
Other Contrib.	225.00	0.00	225.00
<b>Net Difference:</b>	<b>5,988.82</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,988.82</b>

# Early Church Practice

## Collection of Offerings

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- The early church funds were collected for **two** primary functions:
  1. **Benevolence**, aid to the saints
  2. Support for **missions** (foreign evangelism)

# Our Giving & Budgets

## Evangelism/Missionaries & Benevolence

Category	2017 Budget	2025 Budget	Change
<b>Missions:</b> Croatia, Nigeria, Scotland	\$16,200	\$13800	<b>Down</b> \$2,400
Local Evangelism & Youth	\$3,359	\$1248	<b>Down</b> \$3,271
Education/Bible Class	\$4,591	\$1,320	<b>Down</b> \$3,271
Work/Operating Costs	\$21,563	\$14,676	<b>Down</b> \$6,887
<b>Benevolence</b>	\$6234	\$7104	<b>Up</b> \$870

# Churches Today?

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- Contemporary churches (in the US) spend large amounts of money on:
  3. **Buildings** and property
  4. Local, fully-supported **preachers**

# Historical Perspective

## 3. Buildings | 4. Paid Preachers

- Under **Constantine's** vision for **one empire** and **one Christian faith**, fully-funded positions emerged. This allowed paid preachers to become more common in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, and it developed into a “professional clergy”.
- This practice was corrupted further by **Augustine of Hippo** (354-430) who distinguished between the “**active life**” and the “**contemplative life**”. This led to the development of a higher order, a sacred vocation.
- **God's definition of leadership roles and responsibilities were ignored.**
- Congregation level leadership gradually became replaced by a person or persons who may have been called **preacher, minister, pastor, priest, reverend, father, monk, bishop, presbyter, episcopate**, or others.



# Our Giving & Budgets

## Building & Preacher

Category	2017 Budget	2025 Budget	Change
<b>Building</b> (routine maintenance & costs)	\$113,647	\$170,280	<b>Up \$56,633</b>
<b>Preacher</b> Salary and Lectureships	\$65,229	<b>\$50,004</b>	<b>Budgeted, <i>Zero Spent</i></b>

Much higher portions, of our budget and our collections, have been spent on **non-essentials!**

# Performance

## First Six Months of 2025

Category	Income	Expenses	Difference
Budget	\$85,140	\$60.,138	\$25,002
Actual	\$71,679	\$65, 689	\$5,989
Difference	- \$13,461	- \$5552	

- The original budget (plan) for 2025 included **\$50,004** for a preacher salary for the year (i.e., **\$25,002** for 6 months).
- **Good News:** We have not spent more than we collected.
- Our spending is still more than budgeted expenses (***without*** a preacher salary).
- Our actual income is far below the projected income (when including a preacher).



# Evaluate Your Giving!

- **1 Cor 16:1-4** — *as you may prosper* (you increase giving as God blesses you).
- **1 Tim 6:17-19** — **generous** and **ready to share**
- **Matt. 5:20** — For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
- **2 Cor 8:1-7** — their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of **generosity** on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and **beyond their means**, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints
- **Mark 12:41-44** — the widow gave **100%**

# Personal Challenge

- Before the elders can provide an offer to either candidate, we need to have confidence that the funds will be there.
- We can trust in God for an increase, but that **only** works if **you** are passing *your* blessings onto the church.
- In addition to your **feedback** on our two preacher candidates, we would like you to indicate your expectations for giving over the next year:
  - Can you **increase** your giving, and if so, by how much?
  - Are you planning to **decrease** your giving (e.g., because of a reduction in pay, retiring, etc.), and if so, by how much?
  - Are you already giving **beyond your means**, out of extreme poverty (like the Macedonians)?

# Supporting Evangelists

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Backup Slides

# Early Church Practice

## 1. Distributions To The Poor

- **Romans 15:25-27** — I am going to Jerusalem bringing **aid to the saints**. For **Macedonia** and **Achaia** have been pleased to make some contribution (**koinonia**) **for the poor** among the saints at Jerusalem. For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in **material blessings**. When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected (**karpos**) ...
- **1 Corinthians 16:1-4** — Now concerning the collection (**logeia**) **for the saints**: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, **as he may prosper**, so that there will be no collecting when I come. And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

# Early Church Practice

## 2. Supporting Missionaries

- **2 Corinthians 11:7-19** ... did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you **free of charge**? I robbed other churches by **accepting support** from them in order to serve you. And when I was with you and was in need, I **did not burden anyone**, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from **burdening** you in any way.
- **1 Tim 6:17-19** — As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be **generous** and **ready to share**, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.



# Biblical Examples

## 4. Preachers vs. Missionaries

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- Although the Apostles had every right to be supported by those they served... the examples we have in the New Testament church, indicate the **norm** was:
  - A **co-vocational** evangelist, who paid *their own way* as they preached to the lost, supported by their vocation (i.e., *for free*; e.g., Paul and Apollos were tent makers).
  - A **missionary** evangelist, who also preached to the lost, supported by other churches they ***previously*** served.
  - Young evangelists and preachers who were left behind by Paul for **a short time**, to continue the work and train others.
  - Elders, deacons, or other **members** of the local congregation that became evangelists and preachers, and devoted themselves to the apostles teaching.



# Supporting Evangelists

Tertullian (160-220)

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“Let the young persons of the Church endeavor to minister diligently with all appropriate seriousness. So that you will always have sufficient funds to support both **yourselves** and those that are **needy**, and not burden the Church of God. For we ourselves, besides our attention to the word of the Gospel, do not neglect our *inferior employments*. For some of us are fishermen, tentmakers, and farmers, so that we may never be idle.”

# Co-Vocational Evangelists

## Historical Perspective

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- Throughout church history, the full-time, fully funded preacher/ is the **exception** and the bi-vocational (aka: **co-vocational**) preacher is the **norm**.
- In the first three centuries, co-vocational ministry became common among apostles, prophets, evangelists, and elders (who were also carpenters, fishermen, tentmakers, shepherds, farmers, linen weavers, potters, shop keepers, etc.)
- In America, many congregations had a farmer-preacher who tilled ground, split rails, planted corn, fed hogs, preached sermons, performed weddings, and conducted funerals.
- They were also **itinerant evangelists** who served one or **more** congregations.