

January 17, 2017

Dear Members of St. Stephen's,

Grace and peace be with you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

As we survey 2016, the Finance Committee wants to applaud the congregation for faithfully stepping up to the plate in many ways this past year. Last year we communicated to all of you that our 2016 expenses would increase by approximately \$40,000 over the previous year, which was almost spot on. This year the church was also plagued with an assortment of expenses that were not accounted for in our budgetary expense figure. Two major expenses for the upkeep of the church totaled nearly \$90,000 alone. With that in mind, please understand that most congregations would not have been able to take such a huge financial blow in one calendar year. But the good news here at St. Stephen's is that God used these circumstances and led our congregation to extraordinary giving. Not only did our congregation almost overcome the huge increase in our budget, but we were also able to raise an additional \$50,250 to go towards offsetting some of those huge unplanned expenses. In short, our congregation took one of the hardest financial years in our history and met it head on by growing in giving this year by an astounding \$77,386 compared to last year. God's presence was with all of us as we made extra donations and sacrificed for the sake of the ministry that we do in Christ's name here at St. Stephen's. There is nothing else to say other than THANK YOU!

Enclosed is your financial statement for 2016. Please read it carefully to assure that it reflects an accurate giving of your tithes and offerings to St. Stephen's. If you have any questions please contact Tonya Reynolds, St. Stephen's Financial Secretary, at (803) 808-6489 or Tonya@sslc.org.

We give thanks to God for our ministry here at St. Stephen's and we also give thanks to God for all of you that make it possible with your generous gifts and offerings. As we move forward we pray and hope that the Spirit that led us in faith and generosity this year will continue to move us to new and equally impressive heights in 2017! May God bless you, your families, and this congregation as we continue to be "People of Christ Making a Difference!"

Yours in Christ,

Mary Keisler
Treasurer

Benjie Rhoad
Finance Committee Chairman