

Dear Friends

It started innocently enough.

A couple of people, myself included, noticed that there was a little bit of stucco fallen off the north exterior A-frame wall of the church. No big deal, right? Get someone out and do a little patch up. Or leave it, it was so small and high up you had to go look for it even to see it.

Our intrepid Gifts and Resources chairperson, Mark Little, had a look and made a call. A stucco repair person came out and climbed up. "It seems rather wet behind it" he said. Oh-oh!

Sure enough that stucco had not fallen off of its own accord. You probably can guess where this goes. That wall was built with thirteen tall and narrow windows in it. Over the years water had seeped in along the window frames. A lot of wood was rotten. The walls in between were damp and doing little to keep warm air in and cold air out. The window frames were supporting the wall itself and that little problem was now a fairly big one.

But every problem has a solution. Mark and fellow committee member Robert Godkin called for quotes, consulted engineers, came up with a plan. We were going to take the old windows out, put in support beams, insulate, create a wall on the top half and two new large windows down below. Work began two weeks and the crew of two young men are doing an amazing job.

Your stewardship made this happen. Because you have been so diligent and generous in supporting the church throughout the pandemic, we have been able to absorb the cost of this unexpected project through a combination of the 2020 and the 2021 budgets. We ask you to be good stewards with regular donations to the church and, in return, you entrust us to be good stewards of your gifts. To manage donations responsibly and carefully so that we can be in a healthy position and thus able to handle unexpected events like the north wall.

It is too early in the year to make any predictions about our givings in 2021. But it is not too early to ask you to continue your generous support for the mission and ministry of Charleswood United Church. January showed that we were a little behind our givings from January 2020 but so too were our expenses. We ended the month with a small deficit (\$3,392) but also received a \$5,000 Bridge Grant from the Province of Manitoba to bring us to a small surplus position (\$1,607). In the next month you will receive our 2020 Annual Report and have a clearer picture of our financial situation.

In the meantime I am pleased to be able to ask you to continue your financial support of the church throughout the year. As we respond to unprecedented challenges, Charleswood has been responding with unprecedented generosity . Thank you.

Grace and peace,
Michael



P.S. A reminder of the invitation to our first Zoom Forum this Wednesday. For those unfamiliar with this format, Laura has provided some instructions below:

CUC Open Forum with Michael Wilson
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Just click: <https://zoom.us/j/92682661308?pwd=UzZ3UjB4ajhEWXNoN1BCZmN6QlIPUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 8266 1308

Passcode: 798331

Greetings Everyone!

*Michael and I are looking forward to seeing you on Zoom this Wednesday evening at 7pm. I wanted to reach out with some information for people who are less familiar with meeting on Zoom. This information will be useful for **Wednesday's meeting** as well as the upcoming **Lenten Study**.*

If you are new to Zoom and wanting to join via computer, tablet or smartphone I encourage you to [click this link and practice by joining a test meeting](#).

You might also find [this video tutorial on YouTube helpful](#).

Some specific things you might want to practice in a test meeting are:

A) Using the chat function (she shows this in the video at 9:15) and B) Using "reactions" (shown at 13:20)

If you find the font size too small in the chat box, you can increase it by [following these instructions](#) prior to the meeting.

Phew! I think that should be enough to get us started!

*If you have difficulty joining a Zoom meeting via computer for whatever reason, **you can join us by phone!***

You will be able to hear all the audio of the meeting

by phoning 204 272 7920,

entering meeting number 926 8266 1308

passcode 798331.

Looking forward to connecting with you!

Laura