

SPRING/SUMMER

ST. PAUL, MINN.

THE
NEW
HUMBLE WALK
2011
ALMANAC

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IN THE WORLD

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PASTOR JODI

Backstory: When we started Humble Walk, I was a student at Luther Seminary (score 1 for laity!). Lest anyone accuse us of following a business model of ministry, I can tell you with confidence that did not have a business plan. (And not too many of you have EVER made that accusation). We were an unplanned birth. Perhaps the Holy Spirit had something to do with it, but unplanned birth just-the-same. We met every Sunday for six months before putting a hoped-for budget together.

When you have a volunteer pastor and zero assets, the budget is pretty low. A box of wine, homemade bread and a little rent money...that's about what it takes. But, then I graduated and the synod called me to do this work...and my student loans started rolling in. Durn those loans. We pieced together a scrappy little budget that would hopefully come to fruition through partner congregations, synod grants and offerings. It more or less worked. Some months better than others.

Now, as a congregation under development, we get some funding from our national church body in Chicago and our local synod. Our worshipers are wonderfully generous--and we have been graced with surprise gifts from area congregations who believe in what we are doing.

So, you are thinking of starting a church, are you? Or, is your established congregation looking to cut back on operating expenses (to free up more money to give away)? Here are five things you might want to know regarding money.

1. There is enough. Enough to go around. Enough to fund ministry. Enough to share. Enough to change lives. (We might work on distribution, however...)
2. Clergy...don't quit your day job. Seriously. Whatever skills you have for making a living outside of the church are huge assets. (I have none. Other than a decade of youth ministry. Oh wait...) Think of the freedom to do wild, incarnational mission without the burden of needing an institutional church to pay you a salary. Think of the risks you could take.
3. Look around you. There are people in your life who are ridiculously gifted. I am not telling you to use them for your church-starting agenda. That feels slimy. However, people want to be a part of something meaningful...and want to contribute. Let them. Invite them. You often have to give up control, but I'm pretty sure we are supposed to do that anyway. Also, give them space to say "no."

4. Owning stuff is way over-rated. Beg, borrow or steal. I will be the first to admit that this approach gets annoying. You are always setting up camp or tearing it down. What you do own eventually gets broken in the process. But traveling lightly has ALL sorts of benefits. Think of the hours you won't have to spend managing physical assets.

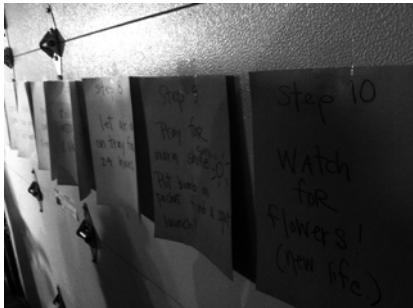
5. Do your own vacuuming. Wash your own dishes. Set up your own chairs. Take out your own garbage. Don't be wussy and hire this out--invite your folks to set up camp with you. If you and a staff provide everything--what in the heck is the gathered body for? (Insert childhood Sunday School song: We are the Church).

Bonus tip: you don't need to rent or pay for an office. If you do, you will spend most of your time there. Lame. There is a whole world out there for you to be a part of...to observe...to conspire with...and that world provides wifi and coffee and beer. I would, however, budget for the coffee and beer that you will consume in your mobile office. Probably a scone or two, as well. Throw in some nacho money for good measure. Ready? Set? Go. Baptize. Teach. Preach. Start churches. Revolutionize the one you already are in.



Photos by Micah Taylor

WALKING HUMBLY IN THE WORLD



So many events, so many people, so much walking the walk. Seed bomb-making on Good Friday, Operation Caffeination at the Pilney bus stop every Friday morning, Artist in Residence...growth.

Photos by
Brie Trovall,
Micah Taylor,
Slade
Thompson,
and
Andy Lien.
See more
online.



A HUMBLE DIRECTORY



Sometimes with a small community, you get a date set for



taking pictures for a photo directory and not everyone is able to make it.



Sometimes with a small community, you have a worship service



when everyone comes...but nobody has a camera. Such is our usual rhythm.



Photos by Micah Taylor.

FINANCES

Giving Your Thanks
by Slade Thompson

We are a blessed community. We are extremely rich despite not being rolling in money. Humble Walk happens because everyone is actively giving a part of what God has first given us. Some people give money, some give labor (which saves us money and allows Jodi to do stuff that pastors should be doing, like lending an ear to someone in need and not setting up chairs), some give supplies, some give prayers. Most folks give us more than one of these.



Photo by Micah Taylor

One of the things I appreciate most about Humble Walk is our lack of attachment to stuff. As Jodi wrote in her note, it's very freeing and how I think Jesus imagined his church would be. The gifts that we give Humble Walk don't go towards acquiring or maintaining stuff. They go towards actions that make God's love known to those around us. Our gifts fund pastoral care for those experiencing life's challenges, creative liturgical worship, making home improvements that are otherwise undone, providing a meal to someone who is hungry, and tuning up the bike of a neighbor who relies on it to get to work. Another characteristic of Humble Walk that I appreciate is that we manage to do a lot with very little. And we do it by keeping an eye on affordability without being cheap. As fast as money comes in, it goes out to work hard in the world, in one of any number of ways that I imagine make God say "...and it was good."

Thanks for giving in whatever way you have. If you have any questions about giving your thanks to God through Humble Walk please contact Pastor Jodi.

For those who expect financial updates to include charts and graphs, here ya go.

Expense			Income
Salary	75.81%	32.41%	Offering
Programs	8.72%	27.78%	ELCA
Rent	7.31%	23.15%	St Paul Synod
Music	4.87%	16.67%	Partner Congregations
Benevolence	3.28%		
2011 Budget	\$53,458.52	\$54,000.00	2011 Budget
2011 Actual as of 3/31	\$12,005.00	\$12,885.00	2011 Actual as of 3/31

LEADERSHIP

Humble Walk, as a small and active community, relies heavily upon its volunteers. With Pastor Jodi Houge, the Leadership Team meets twice monthly to not only study texts but to also examine, discuss, and direct the state of the congregation. As a new congregation, Humble Walk needed to work on an infrastructure focusing on finances, public relations, worship and education and hospitality. What had been handled in a fairly avant garde fashion would now be made into practices and policies. A logo would be required to make letterhead in order to open a bank account. An accounting system was being passed from the Synod to the congregation. A Glocal Liturgy needed to be written to add to the Humble Walk repertoire. A deliberate attention to children and youth programming needed to be paid. A system of weekly announcements and quarterly newsletters had to be started. And, a community built on potlucks and coffee pots needed to be organized. Weekly. Sometimes, more often than weekly.



Serving rotating shifts of six months per term, the first 2011 Leadership Team was comprised of (back l to r): Slade Thompson (finances), Andy Lien (public relations); (front l to r): Grant Applehans (education), Michelle Walka (youth and family intern), and Brie Trovall (hospitality). We thank them for their service and are happy that they will continue to help in such capacities while a new team is formed with different talents.



Photos by Andy Lien.

UPCOMING EVENTS - SUMMER OF HUMBLE



CONTENTS



Ice Cream Socials

Blessing of the Bikes: May 7

Summer Homework: June 4-5

Wild Goose Festival Roadtrip: June 22-27

Youth Trip: July 22-30

Church Camp at Bay Lake: July 22-24

Wild Week: August 14-18

www.humblewalkchurch.org

NITTY GRITTY

Humble Walk meets at 1032 West 7th Street in St. Paul, Minnesota (corner of Randolph Ave and West 7th) in the Pilney building. Visit us there but also

please be sure to find us on Facebook and visit our website at www.humblewalkchurch.org to see our full calendar, photo galleries, announcements, links to our Artists in Residence, programming, and Pastor Jodi's blog posts.

Blessings.

