

Part II
Managing Our Money – Fund Raising Events

(This is part of an ongoing series of articles about the church's finances by Dual Macintyre, Treasurer)

Just about 20% of our income this year will come from “fund raisers”, without which we would be unable to balance our budget. Three of the events – the St. Paul’s Fair, the Dinner and Auction, and the Needlepoint Rug Raffle – take place during the summer. The remaining two, the Harvest Fair and the Christmas Market, take place later in the year. Here’s the amount we hope to raise, after expenses, from each of the events this year:

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| St. Paul’s Fair | \$15,000 |
| Rug Raffle | \$10,000 |
| Dinner and Auction | \$65,000 |
| Harvest Fair | \$ 2,000 |
| Christmas Market | \$ 5,000 |

There is a tremendous amount of work involved to plan, coordinate and stage just one of these events. The work begins months before the event and builds to a climax just before the event, as anyone who has been involved well knows. While the effort is for a good cause and there is satisfaction in working with a good team of people, some of our best volunteers do burnout from the constant stress and strain. In addition, some of these events require large numbers of volunteers on the day of the event. A good example is our St. Paul’s Fair this year that will require more than 90 people on Thursday, July 9th to make the event a success. And then there is the weather – a cold, rainy, blustery day could devastate the Fairs or the Auction. These factors argue that we must find a way to reduce our dependence on one-time, labor-intensive, weather-vulnerable events.

Our long-range plan is to increase the amount of pledges and gifts each year so that the budget can be balanced without depending on fund-raisers. Then the funds raised from events, should they be held, could be used for additional activities, such as outreach programs, one-time educational activities or to help create an endowment fund. In the meantime, please volunteer to help at one or more of these events, even if you will only be on-island for a short period of time. We need every hand to make these events successful.