

When I joined this congregation in 1965—and only John Kenelly and I are surviving members of that year—the entire budget for the group was \$55. Sounds great, huh? That covered:

- the rental of the rooms in the YMCA on campus,
- a piano with no A key [ever try to make music with no A?],
- and a leftover-pizza-box ridden, sticky floor when we arrived each Sunday morning.

Everybody gave \$5.00 a year and that was it! Sounds terrific!

But let me tell what it *didn't get us* that most of us *yearn for* today:

- a Sunday service with real music—all the keys of the piano;
- a safe, comfortable, lovely building where we can meet and bring our children;
- a religious education program that serves all ages;
- a committed staff that administers our works, plans our religious education, and takes care of our building
- a minister coming next year that we can both listen to and be listened to by;
- a minister who understands the complexity of leadership in an active congregation and will lead us;
- a minister who will inspire, encourage, and challenge us to be our best selves;
- a commitment to protecting our environment;
- an active caring congregation;
- a commitment to working with other groups in the community to bring justice where there is none;
- a quiet place to celebrate indoors and outdoors, both our losses and our joys;
- and most of all, a place in which we can grow as spiritual beings.

We can only achieve these goals by giving generously to make it happen.

Good ministry costs—

both for the minister you are searching for this year
and for the ministering the rest of us do in fulfilling our commitment
to each other.

Every gift is just that—a splendid gift. Be generous.