

Living in Maine, we regularly feel the intense changes of the seasons. From winter to spring, summer and fall – we walk through times of difficult weather and times when God’s creation takes our breath away. Honestly, this past year, for the body of Windham Baptist church, has been much the same. There is no doubt that we started in a difficult storm of losing a staff position here and people leaving – and on the other hand, we have seen great people come and join our body and God given change and growth happening in big and small ways. When the elders meet and talk, we are excited about the change that continues to happen here. That change is a depth and growth of understanding of who God is and how He changes us all for the good and for His glory. We are seeing a living example of what is written in the book of Hebrews: A body that has a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf. We see this as we see cancer being battle, marriages being fought for, children being adopted, and all of you encouraging each other as you speak the truth into each other’s lives. We continue to pray that you see the growth – and God’s fruits blossoming – all around us.

We currently are in a different place financially than we have been in the past. God has opened the door to be able to change focus a little bit and take care of the physical building around us and also give more generously to some of our missionaries. We have been able to paint the inside of the building and have started a project of upgrading our sound system and some of the equipment used for the music team. Part of this plan includes a stage extension and new lighting in the gathering place. This will set us up well in the years to come as the lights that we currently have will be discontinued and the music equipment should last for a number of years. We look at this as a gift and opportunity. We seek to be careful with the finances of the body – but are excited at some of the upgrading opportunities we have. Also, by God’s grace, we have been able to get our emergency fund up to where we have wanted it – so we can be as prepared as we can for the unforeseen.

Our focus as a church continues to be discipleship and individual relationships, but we are also looking forward to having some funds to support men’s and women’s ministries and also potentially bring on some more missionaries. We continue to pray and be excited to how God wants to use the funds we have for His kingdom.

Thank you all for your generosity and your willingness to grow in listening to the Spirit. This year has been a year of learning how to be a family on Jesus’ mission of making disciples, sent by God to serve the world (and each other), continually learning, together through trials and celebration, how to walk in His ways.

Joel Lloyd

For the WBC Elders