

**June 15, 2019**

## **Local Church Budget**

*Father's Day.* A pastor recounts: "Several years ago, I received a phone call from Mary, one of our church members. She sounded quite excited and wanted my wife and me to come by her house to hear a marvelous story. Her elderly mother and disabled brother had been living with Mary and her husband for several years, but the mother had recently died. Now, Mary was visiting the Social Security office to report her mother's passing. Little did Mary know the surprise awaiting her:

"She handed over the death certificate and was going to make arrangements to halt her mother's monthly payments and change her brother's payments to herself. Then the lady said to Mary, 'What about the benefits from your father?' To which Mary replied, 'My father has been dead for many years.' Then the lady got a strange look on her face and said, 'No, dear, your father is very much alive.' Mary was totally shocked. Then the lady said, 'Listen, I am not allowed to reveal his whereabouts, but if you will write a letter, we will forward it to him.'

"As it turned out, Mary's parents had gone through a very bitter divorce when Mary and her brother were little, and her mother never told her about her father. Needless to say, a few days later her dad called from Chicago, and it brought an exceedingly happy reunion! And she was able to connect with half-sisters she never even knew about. God is so good."

On Father's Day weekend, let us remember our local church family needs, and look forward to one day seeing our heavenly Father face to face!