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# The Refuge Christian

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## Pastoral Thanks... by Stan Sutton

On May 22 I entered the St. Vincent Heart Center of Indiana. It had been a whirlwind couple of weeks—first were the symptoms that I planned to ignore, but Jan would insist that I check out. Then there would be the visit to the family doctor, the failed treadmill test and the heart cath that revealed three blockages with one of them being in a position that could not be repaired with a “stent” and would thus require open heart surgery for all three.

In the next days there would be an initial visit to my heart surgeon and the actual scheduling of the procedure. But more significantly would be the tremendous outpouring of prayer support. Literally two to three thousand people were praying for me and the medical team. Wow.

There were glitches however. Things like the time of the surgery was changed three different times—as late as the day of surgery. Then there was the fact that my scheduled surgeon was unable to do the surgery.

I guess that should all have been upsetting, but it wasn't. The extra time before surgery gave me time to visit with all those who came to the hospital. And the change of surgeons was clearly God's doing because his approach to my procedure was different from the original surgeon and it effectively greatly sped up my recovery process.

There were lots of areas for praise. The procedure that was to take 4-6 hrs. only took 3. The time with the breathing tube inserted was only about 1 1/2 hours not 2 or 3. And the stay in the hospital was only 3 days not the original estimate of 5-7. Wow.

You, my church family were so helpful. You gave me paid leave during my recovery. And the Church Board graciously directed Jan to relinquish her weekly duties and spend her time taking care of me. It certainly was good to have such great nursing care.

Jan and I also want to say that thanks is certainly due

to all who brought in food to us during those first few weeks. It eased Jan's work load and your attention to my new dietary needs was clearly a reflection of your love and thoughtfulness.

Heart surgery threw me into full-blown insulin dependent diabetes, but through good diet, exercise, and your prayers, I am no longer needing to take insulin and am controlling my blood sugar with oral medication.

I have lost about 25 pounds and my daily routine includes an ample dose of exercise—on Monday, Wednesday, & Friday I am in the Cardiac Rehab program at the hospital.

While there is much else I could say, in reality words do not express my gratitude to God or to you, my church family. I am nearing 100% strength and hope to be there very soon. Thank you, God. Thank you, church family.

In Christ's service,  
*Stan*

# Church Finances and Other Data...

## Worship Attendance:

May 4:	179
May 11:	155
May 18:	181
May 25:	123
June 1:	132
June 8:	159
June 15:	157
June 22:	128
June 29:	171
July 6:	138
July 13:	135
July 20:	126
July 27:	Unavailable

Sometimes we refer to it as a “summer slump”. But this year is certainly extraordinary. Your Church Board has asked all committees to be as frugal as they can and they are doing an excellent job of continuing to do ministry as inexpensively as possible. But the cruel reality is that in the month of July we lost more than \$10,000.00 in our cash position. At the end of June we had cash on hand of \$49,496.32 and at the end of July we had cash of \$39,174.50. Ouch. And for the first time that I can remember in years, the treasurer had to take money from savings in order to pay ordinary bills. So...

Maybe God has blessed you during this time and you can make a **special gift** to Refuge. We certainly need it and it would be greatly appreciated. In the meantime, please pray for the effectiveness of our church. I continue to believe God will help us make wise decisions and will provide for our financial needs.

Below is the current report prepared by Treasurer, Mark Coverdale as of July 31, 2008.

Total income (January-July 2008)	\$145,730.37
Total expenses (January-July 2008)	\$158,670.20
Net Income:	\$-12,939.83

Thanks for caring about and giving to Refuge,  
Pastor Stan

## The “Other” Men’s Bible Study by Nathan Wainwright

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We've been really excited with attendance on Monday nights at Noble Coffee & Tea. We would love to see more people participate. We are meeting at 7pm every week, show up a little early if you want to get something to drink first. We are currently working our way through the book of Acts, and learning about the beginnings of the Church.

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