

My condo is putting a speed bump in the parking lot—I hate driving over speed bumps
But it will make us all slow down
Bumps in life's road do that—cause us to slow down and see what's happening

This week Administry hit one of those bumps as we recognized that our finances were down \$1500/mo
Truth is that it is the result of faithfulness on the part of several of our folks
While we miss them, we blessed those among us that moved
This week, Ernie's house is ready to be sold
Ernie is at Friendsview where he will get good meals and long term care
Eric and Carolann moved in December to Friendsview
Heath and Cathy moved to California to live with their son
Arylene and Walt moved to Las Vegas to be close to Arylene's mom
Every one of those moves is the right decision for each person and we blessed them
We also lost Audrey to cancer—and know she is in a place free of pain and trouble
It is a loss and we miss them all
But we are also grateful for their faithfulness over many years
Both in their commitment to tithing and in their faithfulness to the church

It is easy to worry and fret about how we can fix this—but I want to remind us what we have learned
Remind us that we've been here before and God has not left us without way forward

Jan began this conversation by asking us to experiment—God experiments around extra money
God was answering even as Jan wrote the letter as we hear from Donna's story
Who else has a God experiment story to share?
Maybe your experiment is a bit different and you can share that as well

But I want to remind us of some things that we have learned as a community
We have faced financial setbacks before and God has brought us through
It was about 13 years ago when we faced one of those times
We felt puny and not enough—the day care was leaving and there was real loss
I suddenly came to the end of my resources when I didn't take care of myself
You sent me away in my tent trailer—and picked up all jobs I over committed to
I went to Staircase in Olympic National Park and spent a week there with Iggy
Read through all of Romans in the Message Bible
Struck by Abraham and Sarah—it took 25 years for God to fulfill a promise
What was it like for them to wait 25 years for Isaac?
What did God want from them during that 25 years? **To be faithful!**

All God asks is that we are faithful—God never asks for success as the world defines it
Start by telling the truth in community
Sturdy trust—in God and in each other
We are in this together—it isn't mine to fix by myself or to leave while others fix it—we stay together
We Listen and discern way forward together
We do God experiments and allow God to lead us in new ways
We are enough! Now! We have everything we need to take the next steps forward
There will be way forward—and it may be a "third way"
Finally—a lesson I've learned is that God is not surprised by these bumps in the road—so trust God