

Scrip Program 2016 Annual Report

Scrip = Cash Equivalent. The Scrip Program allows congregants to earn free money for the church while buying those items that they would ordinarily buy anyway. Over 600 retailers participate in the program, offering rebates from 2 to 16%, some even more.

For 2015, we were budgeted to earn \$1000 per month, but we ended up months short of our goal. Once again, we are budgeted for \$1000 per month for 2016, and once again, we're running behind. Why? Please tell us.

Income from Kroger's continues to fall, as it is a challenge to get all congregants who shop at Kroger's to (re-)enroll their Kroger Plus cards every April. Arbor Farms, however, is sending us about \$175 per month, just for mentioning that a shopper there "supports First UU." Meijer, Plum Market, and Whole Foods scrip (3% on all purchases) continues to be very popular, as well as People's Food Co-op (5%). Hiller's has closed, and Busch's has changed their program.

More folks are placing orders for scrip and reloads online with Great Lakes Scrip. This earns them rebates that can be itemized on their income taxes.

Having scrip on sale after each service requires two teams of two sellers every Sunday, except for the single-service months. I am so grateful for the reliable regulars - Jo Dodge, Sara Gibb, Sara Mathews, and Becky Swank. We will miss the services of Ruth Lamphiear and Lise Anderson and Miles Peterle, who served throughout the year. We could use a few more volunteers.

I am especially grateful for the loyal efforts of Jo Dodge, who helps out multiple times each month; Becky Swank, who fills in for me when I am out of town and makes sure that Scrip Table news gets publicized in the

Weekly Bulletin and *Monthly Newsletter*; and Elsie Dyke, who picks up local grocery scrip orders.

You can help, too. Figure out where you regularly spend your money, then come talk to us.

Submitted by Carolyn Barber

Scrip Program Coordinator