



Rev Joan C. Friesen  
Executive Minister  
abcgiexec@gmail.com

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Dear Friends,

After worship one Sunday this month, I stayed into the afternoon in order to take part in the church's Annual Business meeting. I figured it would give me greater insight into what was going on in this particular congregation, and I was both surprised and encouraged by what I heard.

While many churches have struggled to make it financially through these recessive times, this church was celebrating that after 11 months of giving they are more than \$16,000 ahead of giving from the same time last year—over 12% increase! Their pastor credits their “focus on ministry” as the reason people have responded so generously. They've seen the needs and how they've been able to meet them, and the excitement about what they could do became contagious, despite uncertain times.

I have always believed in “putting my money where my mouth is” and it's evident this church has experienced the same thing. When we believe in the cause it is far easier to give freely and generously.

Many of you have a very high value for our relationship as American Baptist Churches of Greater Indianapolis. That shows in your generous support of our ministry in 2009. Thank you, thank you, for making our ministry possible. I look forward to our journey together in 2010.

*Joan*

Rev. Joan C. Friesen  
Executive Minister

Mailing Address: P O Box 421487, Indianapolis IN 46242-1487  
Location: 709 S. Lynhurst Drive, Indianapolis IN 46241  
Phone: 317-484-9327 Fax: 317-484-9336  
[www.abcgi.org](http://www.abcgi.org)