

The Obadiah Fund Turns Ten

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“This practical expression of Christian love is a source of great encouragement to us in these years of our lives.” So wrote a retired minister after receiving a gift from the OPC’s Obadiah Fund last summer.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Obadiah Fund, established in 2006 with a large contribution from a member of the OPC who has contributed an additional \$150,000 to the Fund each year since then.

The original donor requested that the Fund be used specifically for the care of retired ministers and their widows. The Fund is administered by members of the Committee on Diaconal Ministries (CDM), who consider it a blessing and privilege to serve as the conduit through which special concern is expressed for those in the church who have sacrificed so much for the ministry of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. In recent years, other individuals and churches have made contributions to the Fund as well.

The CDM receives requests from presbytery diaconal committees on behalf of retired ministers or their widows who are in particular need. In addition, annually since 2007, the CDM has made general disbursements of up to \$1,250 to each eligible beneficiary on the assumption that all retired ministers and their widows would be blessed to receive a monetary gift to be used as they see fit. This has been confirmed by many expressions of thanksgiving:

“Please pass on to our gracious donor-in-Christ our love and ongoing appreciation with the same extravagance with which he has blessed us through his diaconal heart.”

“Praise be to our God who provides for his ministers in this way.”

“It is such a joy to be part of this church, where the doctrine is straight and the heart is tender also.”

“... helped us make much-needed repairs to our home.”

“... will go to badly needed glasses.”

“... a much-appreciated gift for us since we just moved.”

“... came at a good time as my wife had some medical events that Medicare did not cover.”

“... helps take the bite out of school taxes.”

“... exactly covered the member contributions I needed to spend for physical therapy.”

“... comes as a great encouragement to look for a newer car, rather than pour money into the old one.”

“... settling into retirement and getting adjusted to a very fixed income.”

“... it came providentially at a time my wife is facing unplanned dental expenses uncovered by insurance.”

“In God’s all-wise, loving, and powerful providence, those gifts always seem to arrive just at the time when some unforeseen need arises.”

“I am reminded of the Scripture in which we read, ‘Before they call I will answer!’ Truly the Lord ‘daily loads us with benefits.’”

Further information about the Obadiah Fund can be obtained from David Nakhla, Administrator of the CDM, at David.Nakhla@opc.org.