

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

Sunday September 25, 2011

Good morning! *This is indeed the day the Lord hath made, let us all rejoice and be glad in it!!* On behalf of the Stewardship Committee of this church, I am pleased to announce that today marks the beginning of our 2011 Stewardship Season. This, of course, is the time of year when we come together, both as individuals and as a congregation, to make our pledges toward our General Operating Budget for 2012.

The Stewardship Committee has been hard at work over the past month preparing for this year's campaign. We have decided to handle our campaign a little differently this year, and I would like to briefly go over our plans with you now.

First off, this year we have put together a *Stewardship Packet* for everyone. In each packet, there are five things: 1) a letter from Sam Warner; 2) a General/Operating Fund Pledge Card; 3) a Capital Campaign Fund Pledge Card; 4) a Children's Pledge Card (all on card stock); and, 5) a *Time and Talent Sheet* Brochure. The committee felt that we should go back to doing our stewardship campaign together with our time and talent sheet so as to aid in getting everything turned into the church office at the same time.

Secondly, there will be three tables set up for today and next Sunday, October 2nd. These tables will have your *Stewardship Packets* on them. For those who have their last names ending in A through H, your table will be located here in the front of the sanctuary. For those with last names ending in I through P and Q through Z, your tables will be located in our new gathering area. **We are asking everyone to PLEASE go to your respective tables and pick your packet up today.** We will do this same thing again next Sunday. Following next Sunday's service, all active officers and members of the Stewardship Committee will meet to pick names of those who have not picked up their packets, and for **ONE** week, we will hand deliver every packet to every remaining giving unit (family) of the church. **Sunday, October 16th will be Dedication Sunday** when we all come together to present our General Operating Fund and Capital Campaign Fund Pledge Cards and our *Time and Talent Sheet* Brochures.

On a third note, please let me emphasize to everyone what our Stewardship Committee's main desire is for this year's campaign. It is our hope that we can increase the **total number of pledges committed by our congregation.** It has been quite clear over the past several years that our number of pledging units is on the decline. For instance, our total number of pledging units in this church is roughly 350 units. From 2008 through 2011, our **actual** pledging units have been 163, 164, 138 and 136 respectively. The Stewardship Committee is requesting that if at all possible, for as many of us that are able, to prayerfully consider making a pledge towards our 2012 General Operating Budget. Of course, as in the past, you may continue to give your monies as you are able without pledging, with these funds falling into our non-pledged offerings line item on our budget.

Finally, our theme this year is **Partners in the Gospel** using the Bible verse from Philippians 1:3-5: *"I thank my God every time I think of you, constantly praying with you in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."*

Our committee chose this theme feeling that it was a "count me in" type of theme. Our question to you is: **Can we count you in?**

William Howe

2011 Stewardship Committee:

**Wayne Baird, Ann-Brittian Green, William Howe (Chair),
Rob Modlin, Rod Smallwood, Jim Stallings, Terri Sullivan,
Adrian Walker**