



Stewardship Message



First Things First at First

This is our Stewardship Moment for November. We're using a visual aid – the brochure you recently received in the mail. If you need a copy to look at now, please raise your hand. Thanks.

I've always been uncomfortable with the passage where Jesus says "Let the dead bury the dead". Once you've responded to the invitation to become a disciple, it seems to say there's no turning back to tie up loose ends, to tend to family matters, to resign properly from other commitments – just turn to the future with Him, and start on the path. Now I understand that passage a little more clearly; and I believe it's telling us to turn from the world and tend to our faith and to the church, returning to the world as missionaries of that faith and of that church. Paul's letters give lots of directions for just how to do that, and they also provide good examples of the caring, commitment, and love that early Christians had for each other. It's a matter of new priorities, of acting on belief.

So in our budget process in Session, and in our thinking in the Stewardship Committee, we've been finding ways to portray as clearly as possible how the process of re-prioritization is working here at First Presbyterian. Not that there's anything new about the priorities we're espousing; it's just that some of us are more ready to listen and act than we may have been in the past. M. Scott Peck talks about that in his book, *Further Along the Road Less Traveled*. The hunger he found across our country was a spiritual craving; a craving that seems to peak when the material hunger we so often attend to is clearly not meeting our true needs. So, in this time of material loss, of hurting, of insecurity, we may be more ready than we usually are to take God at his word, and trust in Him rather than in our own abilities.

To make that more concrete, let's look at the brochure your Stewardship Committee has drafted and mailed to each of you recently.

It's our first attempt to show how we understand our responsibility to tend to our faith and to serve each other and our community. The top priority we have as a church, if we read these numbers, is our investment in worship- prayer, praise, and the word of God. Our second priority is caring for our members, following the examples in Paul's letters. Priority number three is education, strengthening the faith of members, teaching our children, and offering spiritual lessons that reach the hearts of potential members. Outreach in our community is next, and mission that touches lives far from our home follows local outreach. Finally, we have the "administrative" cost supporting the larger Presbyterian church, which in turn provides numerous resources for our local congregation. So the priorities demonstrated by our proposed budget are: worship, caring for our members, education, outreach, mission, and partnership. We believe this to be Biblical, we hope and trust that our effort to sort this out will be met with support and encouragement from all of our members. This is a faith budget; we will rely on the faith and commitment of all of us to bring it to life. If you have returned your pledge card, thank you – that helps us put these plans in motion. We're hoping to have as many pledge cards as possible returned this month, so we can build a solid budget to bring our commitment to these priorities to life.

-Linda Abbott Trapp, Stewardship co-chair

The Thanksgiving Celebration Stewardship Luncheon will be held following church *November 14, 2010*.

This will be a Thanksgiving-themed potluck. Turkeys and drinks will be provided; please bring your favorite side dish or dessert.

A-K: Side Dish

L-Z: Dessert

Earl Roider will give the Stewardship campaign update. If you have questions about what to bring, please contact Gail Herron at 462-2148.



Congratulations Pastor Gus and Ali!!

Their first child was born on October 26, 2010, at 4:58 a.m. It was a boy, as expected, and he weighed 9 lbs. 13 oz., and was 21 1/4" long. Mother and child are doing well.

Pastor Gus will return to the pulpit on Nov. 7th.



Presbyterian Women



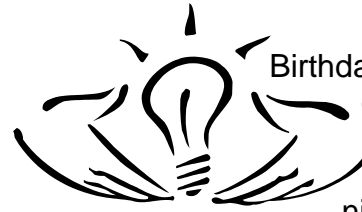
Grace Abounds with Presbyterian Women

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:15: "Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God." Last year Presbyterian Women reviewed 84 proposals, and selected 16 national and 15 international projects to receive a share of the \$870,058 given as the Thank Offering. Projects ranged from aiding the purchase of hygiene kits for victims of natural disasters in Minnesota to rebuilding a worship center in Haiti that was destroyed in the 2010 earthquake. This month we have the opportunity to increase thanksgiving. Hopefully, we can reach a million dollars this year for creative mission projects for the healing of more and more people. We will collect the offerings at our luncheon on November 16. Our speaker, Rev. Nancy Clegg, Hunger Enabler for our Presbytery, will tell us what we can continue to do to help heal our land locally and (as Barbara Rossing put it in our last lesson) to witness to the conviction that God's reign already is at work in the world.

Our study of Revelation will continue with Lesson Two. Tuesday, November 2, Circle One will meet at 9:30 at the home of Barbara Roek and Circle Two will meet at 11:30 in the Geneva Room. If you would like to join the evening circle, please contact Cheryl Hunt.

We are thankful for the message of healing for grieving hearts brought to us by Rev. Carey Lane at our last delicious luncheon hosted by the awesome cooks and decorators of Circle One. And we enjoyed the opportunity to hear about our Native American friends at the Fall Gathering of the Presbytery. All evidences of Hope....Coming into View...Unveiled...Revealed.

Ideas for Our Future



As part of our 160th Birthday celebration we not only made personalized commitments, but had an opportunity to create a wish

list of things we'd like to see our church and congregation doing in the next decade. Ever wonder what happened to those ideas?

Well, they are posted on the "light bulb" bulletin board in Westminster Hall. Yes, those are the ideas you came up with about six months ago! Since then, you've probably thought of several more. Many suggestions were offered, and you can see that several touched on common areas like youth groups; fellowship groups; increased use of our building; etc.

PLEASE ADD to these suggestions. The more ideas to improve and expand our church life, the better.

ALSO, indicate which idea(s) you might like to work on with others in the congregation. It's a way of voting to see what ideas are most popular and have the most support, and what ideas we should try to implement first.

-The Outreach Committee



THE DEACONS' ANGEL TREE!

Christmas will be here before we know it, and the Deacons will again be making the Angel Tree available for those who would like to help make that day happier for a child. Gifts will go to the New Hope Family Shelter.

Suggestions include underwear, socks, pajamas, gloves, scarves, personal hygiene items, and, of course, toys. Teenagers there also appreciate school supplies. Please take an ornament from our tree. Each one has the age and gender of one of the children. You can put your unwrapped gifts under the tree November 28, December 5, or December 12.

Thank you. -The Deacons



Advent Workshop and
Decorating Party!



On Sunday, November 21 there will be an Advent Workshop and Decorating Party. The fun will begin right after the morning worship service. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus we will decorate the sanctuary with the advent wreath, the nativity set, and Christmas trees. There will be crafts for the children and of course food. The party will conclude with the singing of Christmas carols.



On November 7 after worship the Christian Education Committee will be holding a bake sale. This will be a great opportunity to do some fall baking, enjoy some great goodies, and help our youth go to Calvin Crest this summer. Donated baked goods will be greatly appreciated.

The committee will also be taking orders for jars of rainbow soup mix.

See you at the bake sale!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

If any information is listed incorrectly or needs updating, **PLEASE** contact the church office!

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Michelle Holmes | Nov. 8 | Verner Strombom | Nov. 28 |
| Diana Strombom | Nov. 8 | Chris Wihlidahl | Nov. 30 |
| Cynthia Panzer Teran | Nov. 9 | | |
| Gail Cummings | Nov. 11 | | |
| Janet Lewis | Nov. 13 | | |
| Florence Lenz | Nov. 16 | | |
| Marjorie Wall | Nov. 22 | | |



READERS R US BOOKCLUB

The next meeting will take place on Nov. 18, at 3 p.m., at Bobbie Wallinger's House: 1407 Briarwood. The club will be discussing *Rediscovering Values* by Jim Wallis.

Notes from Session

Personnel: A quick overview of the Guidelines for Session Personnel Committees, from the **Presbyterian Church USA** was presented.

Outreach: **Craig Holmes** has contacted **Dr. Joseph Woelfel**, Assistant Professor, School of Pharmacy, University of the Pacific about presenting a free program on Medication Use Safety Training for seniors, and a Falls Prevention Clinic. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the committee move forward with planning.

League of Women Voters has been contacted about using the church facility for Candidate and issues forums prior to the election. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the committee be authorized to work with the League of Women voters to invite them to use the facilities.

: A motion was made, seconded and passed to have a Bake Sale Campership fundraiser sometime this fall.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that a Congregational meeting be held on November 21st, prior to the Advent workshop for the purpose of Electing officers and approving the Terms of the Pastor's Call.

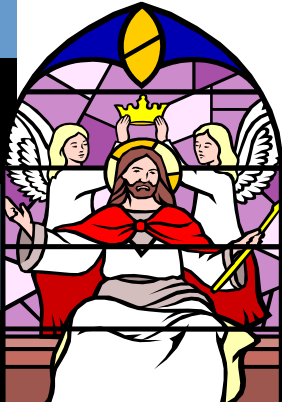
Next Session Meeting:

TUESDAY

November 30, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

| Income Sep. 2010 | Actually Received | Budget |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Pledged | \$9,466.47 | \$14,333.33 |
| Unpledged | \$937.24 | \$1,000.00 |
| Loose Offer. | \$121.15 | \$183.33 |
| TOTAL | \$10,702.86 | \$15,516.66 |
| Expense Sep. 2010 | Actually Spent | Budget |
| Expenses | \$16,701.71 | 17,905.85 |

THE WINDOW



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As God's family, forgiven and freed through Jesus Christ, we seek

- We seek to know God through prayer, worship and Bible study.
- To reflect God's love to each other and to the world.
- To respond to the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- To spread the Gospel throughout our community

NEXT WINDOW DEADLINE:
Wednesday, Nov 17th

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STOCKTON

31 E. Vine Street
Stockton, CA 95202

Phone: 209-465-2653
Fax: 209-465-2655
Email: office@fpcstockton.org
Pastor's Email: gwright@fpcstockton.org
Website: www.fpcstockton.org

Business Office Hours:
Monday -Tuesday, Thursday- Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Wednesdays: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Noon)



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Stockton, CA 95203

Return Service Requested

PRAYER FOR UNITY

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant to be like minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus , that you may be with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus.

Romans 15:5-7