



**Information on**

***PLEDGE DRIVE FOR 2019***

**October – November 2018**

*It's YOUR church*

*Put your treasure where your heart is*

## Pledge Drive For 2018

### Important Dates:

October – November

Pastor Sermon Series

October 21

Stewardship Minute

October 21

[“Thank You” Brunch \(all invited!\)](#)

October 28

Stewardship Minute

November 4

Stewardship Minute

November 4

Congregational Meeting

November 4,  
November 11,  
November 18

Pledge Card Submissions!

*Matthew 6: 19. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21. for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

## Questions & Answers About This Year's Pledge Drive

- **What is Session's main objective for pledging this year?**
  - We would like to continue our positive trend in giving, and WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO INCREASE YOUR PLEDGE OVER LAST YEAR'S AS YOU ARE ABLE. An increase of even two to three percent would be in line with US inflation over the past year. (Read on and look for yellow-highlighted text for where that additional money will go and what YOU can do...)
- **Where does the church's money come from?**
  - The vast majority comes from your pledged giving. Last pledge drive, we received 120 pledges totaling more than \$466,000. An average pledge was about \$3,900.
  - In addition, the church receives unpledged gifts in the offering plates amounting to about \$25,000 each year and occasional bequests, memorial and other gifts.
  - We also earn \$15,500 a year from our lease with the Island Children's Montessori School plus an additional several thousand from rentals of our facilities for events.
- **What do we spend it on?**
  - About three-quarters of the budget goes to paying our staff to lead and support our ministries. (See back page for roster.)
  - The majority of the balance is spent on utilities and other expenses related to maintaining the buildings and grounds, office supplies, and essential services.
  - The remainder is allocated to the church's many various missions and ministries.

- **Is that all the money we spend as a church?**
  - No. Session authorizes a number of groups to conduct supplemental fundraising each year. These events contribute thousands of dollars to finance ministries like the Merida and youth mission trips that are not funded in the annual budget.
- **Just how much is the church's annual budget?**
  - The 2018 budget is \$501,000. That amount is incrementally greater than the budget for 2017.
  - For 2019, church committees, administration, and others have submitted requests totaling \$513,000. That would be an increase of 2.5 percent over the current year's budget, a little less than annual inflation rate over the same period.
- **Where would we allocate that additional money?**
  - Personnel Committee has recommended a pay increase of 2.5 percent totaling \$7,000 for our pastor and nine part-time staff members. That is slightly less than the 2.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment the federal government will grant to Social Security and other recipients in 2019.
  - Spiritual Formation has a plan to strengthen adult and women's ministries with a budget increase of \$2500. (Watch for more on that during our pledge drive speaker series.)
  - Missions Committee has requested an additional \$5900 to supplement other fund raising for a return trip to Merida, Mexico where they hope to repeat on this year's successful water purification project in another community.
- **Who are our biggest pledgers?**
  - ALL individual pledges and donations are CONFIDENTIAL. Only the church Treasurer has access to the names and numbers associated with each pledge or donation, and that is only to enable him to assist donors tracking their accounts.

- **What are the pledge drive goals this year?**
  - Over the past five years, with your generous support, we have stabilized budgets and restored some pay and benefits to our staff. We've made terrific progress rehabilitating parts of our church and grounds and clearing the backlog of deferred maintenance. We've enabled other important ministries to enhance their works in modest ways.
  - This year we wish for at least as many pledges as we collected last year, and that as many of you as possible increase your as you are able, and hopefully by at least the annual rate of inflation.
  - *Our Session has firmly endorsed these goals, and hope that all of you will follow their lead in putting money where your heart is.*
- **What should we members and friends do this year?**
  - Listen to our speakers, read our correspondence, then talk, think, and pray about your pledging plans.
  - Bring your questions to the congregational meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> which will be dedicated to discussion of pledging and budgets.
  - If you are not in the habit of pledging but donate to the church anyway, go ahead and fill out a pledge card. A pledge helps us to determine more accurately and confidently what our budget should be.
  - If you are a regular pledger, consider how much you can increase your pledge for next year.
  - Get your pledge cards back in the collection plates or through the mail as soon as possible beginning November 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - IF YOU ARE AN ONLINE GIVER, please fill out a pledge card anyway so that Jerry can track your giving plan.

- **What is the “right” pledge amount for me?**
  - Not an easy question, but a simple answer is this: Talk to God, and do what’s right for you.
  - Other suggestions? Well, our average pledge this year was about \$3,900, about \$325 per month or \$75 a week. How has your year been financially? How much can you manage each week? Maybe \$30, \$60, or \$100 every service?
  - Can you increase your gift by two or three percent to help us keep pace with inflation? Maybe more?
  - Truly though, our church does not prescribe averaging, tithing or any “formula” for pledging, and no two families will have the exact same considerations in their decisions. But this might be a useful rule of thumb: If you feel your pledge is stretching you, you’ve probably reached the right amount.
- **I want to pledge more this year, but I just don’t know if I’ll be able to make all my payments. What should I do?**
  - Our church is a place of understanding and forgiveness. Pledge the amount your heart is telling you to offer the church, and do your best to make the payments.
- **So once we’ve made our pledge, what do we do?**
  - First, keep a record of your pledge amount so that you’ll remember it in January!
  - Second, deliver your offering in whatever way is most convenient and manageable for you. Some members make single lump sum payments at the start of the new year. Others pay quarterly, monthly, or every week. You also can deliver your offerings on-line by clicking the “Give” button on the top right corner of church’s home page (rbpres.org).

- **Who should we talk to if we have other questions?**
  - Feel free to talk to Pastor Marty or other members of the Stewardship Committee (Tom Irvin (Chair) and Al Westphal) or to any Session member.

- **Reminder: Here is a roster of all our terrific employees**
  - Pastor Marty Shelton-Jenck: Pastor/Head of Staff (full-time)
  - Sharon Acton: Director of Music In worship (part-time)
  - Nancy Lyman: Organist/Keyboardist (part-time)
  - Courtney Cook: Director of Youth Ministries (part-time)
  - Molly Dunn: Director of Children's Ministries (part-time)
  - Becky Lathe: Children's Ministry Assistant (part-time)
  - Gail Williamson: Office Admin/Comms Manager (part-time)
  - Thom Spitler: Caretaker/Custodian (part-time)
  - Dale Christopherson: Bookkeeper (part-time)

**“I have noticed that when money leads us toward God I think it says:**

**Don't look to me for contentment. Love God and others with me.**

**You will like your life better if you give me away.**

**The time for generosity is now.”**

**(Pastor Marty Shelton-Jenck)**