

Stewardship Campaign Newsletter General Budget & Debt Reduction

First Presbyterian Church

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A Message from Pastor Ben

I want to thank all of you who are helping with our Stewardship Campaign. It is gratifying to see over 55 members involved with the campaign in one capacity or another. Our campaign meetings have been full of energy, which has set a great tone for the campaign.

This campaign will be different than the one in 2013. This campaign will request two financial commitments from you. One will be a financial commitment for 2016 to fund our **General Fund** budget, which includes our ministries and programs. The second will be a three-year financial commitment for **Debt Reduction**. We will be providing you more information, as we get closer to commitment Sunday, April 24. Please continue to read all the newsletters that are coming your way.

Teresa of Avila reminds us "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless people now." We are the bodies that Christ uses to build His Kingdom

here on earth. Without our willingness to share our gifts and resources, we would be limiting what God wants to do through us. If you are not yet involved with the campaign, **I encourage you to consider sitting on one of the six different teams.** No prior experience or skills are necessary. Call Ken Coryell at 316-641-8759 to volunteer.

I also encourage you to take the time to review the information in this newsletter. There is a lot of great information to help you discern what it is God wants you to do through this campaign.

Thank you for sharing your gifts of time, talent and resources with First Presbyterian Church as we continue to make our first priority Christ through Extravagant Generosity.

In Christ,
Pastor Ben



CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE APPROVES PRAYER, GOAL & LOGO

Over 20 members on the Steering Committee met for the first of three meetings to direct the campaign and to ensure that it reflects the needs and culture of First Presbyterian Church. After much discernment, the Committee made the following decisions.

1. The goal for the Debt Reduction part of the campaign was set at \$500,000. The recent feasibility study indicated that our church had a good chance of raising this amount with a quality campaign based in prayer, large member engagement, and good information provided to our membership.

2. The Spiritual Formation Team composed and recommended a campaign

prayer that will guide us through the campaign. The Steering Committee approved the prayer with minor edits and thanked the team for their work. (See prayer insert to the right) The prayer will be recited at worship and during church meetings. Families are encouraged to recite the prayer in their homes. It is important that all of us keep prayer at the center of this campaign. We want this to be as much a spiritual effort as it is a financial one.

The Public Relations Team presented the campaign logo to the Steering Committee and after good discussion, the committee approved it with a minor change. The logo that appears in the newsletter masthead was chosen.

Stewardship Campaign Prayer

We thank you, Almighty God, for we know that all we have comes from you. We pray for your blessing and guidance as we seek to glorify and serve you. Guide us to be good stewards of all that you have entrusted to our care. In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Campaign Q&A

If you have a question you would like to submit, you can send it to Bill Cordaro at Bill@SPandR.consulting or call Bill at 816-797-1114. Bill is the consultant from SP&R who is assisting us with the campaign. He also helped us with the 2013 campaign.

Q: Why are we doing the Stewardship Campaign for both the General Budget and Debt Reduction?

In recent years, SP&R, the company who is managing the campaign, has had success conducting campaigns with two different requests for commitments. Our **General Budget Drive** generally takes place in the fall, but since we were anticipating a capital campaign this spring, we postponed last fall's General Budget Campaign until spring. This allows members an opportunity to review their entire church financial obligations together and make their commitments accordingly.

The **Debt Reduction Drive** follows directly the three-year 2013 Capital Campaign, which concludes at the end of April. Recall that this campaign launched our facilities expansion and now we need to pay down the remaining debt.

Therefore, on Commitment Sunday, April 24, each member household will be asked to make a one-year commitment in support of our general budget and a three-year commitment to reduce our church debt.



More information will be made available in upcoming newsletters.

Q: What are the goals of the overall

Stewardship Campaign?

1. To raise the needed money to support our general budget and pay down our church debt,
2. To enhance our congregation's sense of community,



3. To increase our members' understanding and practice of the transformative power of stewardship.

Q: What is the goal for the General Budget Drive?

The goal for the General Budget drive is for every household to increase their giving to the general budget by 5%. Your increased contributions to the general budget will be divided between the general budget and mission outreach.

Q: What is the goal of the Debt Reduction Drive?

The Campaign Steering Committee set the goal of the three-year Debt Reduction Drive at \$500,000. This will not eliminate the total \$1.6 million debt, but it will decrease it considerably, knowing that it will take more campaigns down the road to eliminate it completely. The overall goal is to pay off the 25-year loan within the next ten years.

Q: What is stewardship?

Stewardship starts with the

Christian giving is not a natural act, but a supernatural act of God in your life. It is God's grace and love that will give you the ability to give and share according to what He's given you. Your Christian giving is to be more delight than drudgery, more privilege than pressure, and more anticipation than anxiety.
Anonymous

Q&A Continued from page 2

recognition that our loving God has given us all that we have, including our family, homes, employment, education – everything! When one truly understands that everything we have is a gift from God, it changes the way we relate to what we have and it begins to transform us as individuals and as a community. The second step involves the question, *what are we to do with our gifts from God?* The answer found in the Gospels is clear: **build the Kingdom of God here on earth.**

Q: When will we be asked to make a commitment to the campaign?

Commitment Sunday is April 24. In early April, members will receive a commitment packet. Inside the packet will be a number of items including a commitment card. The card will have two

encouraging members to begin praying now, asking God to guide them in their decision. The different campaign teams will be assisting you with your decision by providing newsletters, speakers, informational events and opportunities to pray individually and collectively. Campaign leaders want members to make this more a spiritual journey than a question about how much we can afford. We will reflect on what it means to be good stewards of God’s gifts knowing that these gifts are to be used to build God’s Kingdom on earth. You are asked to do your part:



- ◆ Start praying now.
- ◆ Volunteer on one of the 6 teams.
- ◆ Read the newsletters.
- ◆ Speak with fellow members and family.
- ◆ Attend Faith in Action Celebration on Sunday April 3.
- ◆ Complete and turn in your commitment card on Commitment



The General Budget is our first priority because it supports our ministries and programs. Therefore, your commitment to Debt Reduction must not adversely impact your commitment to the General Budget.

different requests for commitment. One will be a one-year commitment for the General Budget. The second commitment will be for the three-year Debt Reduction. We ask that members bring their commitment card with them to worship on Commitment Sunday, April 24, or mail the cards to the church offices prior to April 24.

Q: What can you expect from the campaign leading up to Commitment Sunday, April 24?

We know making a commitment to the two different campaigns will be a sacrifice for our members. We are

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

First Presbyterian Church
Invites you to the

Faith in Action Celebration

Sunday, April 3
@ 5:00 pm

- ◆ Enjoy the company of other members
- ◆ View the premiere of a video that our youth have created
- ◆ And More!

**Save the Date!
Faith In Action
Celebration
Sunday, April 3rd
5:00 pm**

**Stewardship Campaign
Commitment Sunday
April 24th, 2016**

Calling Team Seeks Members

The Calling Team is given the charge to call all the member households to be sure they have received the campaign materials in the mail and to ask if they have any questions. Volunteers will be trained and will be asked to make 10-20 phone calls between April 8 and April 21. If you have the time and want to make a difference in the success of this campaign, please call Ken Coryell (316-641-8759) to volunteer to be on the Calling Team.



Campaign Teams Begin Their Work!

Our Volunteer Organizational Meeting on January 26, brought together members to work on our campaign. By the end of the meeting, each team was working on their designated tasks. **We are still looking for volunteers.** If you have a couple of hours to share and want to be more involved with the life of the congregation, volunteer for one of the teams. Most teams will meet one or two times between now and the end of April. Call Ken Coryell at 316-641-8759 to get involved. No special skills needed.

Here are the 6 teams:

1. Spiritual Formation
2. Children & Youth
3. Calling
4. Thanks & Recognition
5. Public Relations
6. Dialogue Events

