

# Stewardship Campaign Newsletter

## General Budget & Capital Fund Debt Reduction

### First Presbyterian Church

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## A Message from Pastor Ben

Mother Teresa visited Australia. A new recruit to the monastery in Australia was assigned to be her guide and “gofer” during her stay. The young man was so thrilled and excited at the prospect of being so close to this special woman. He dreamed of how much he would learn from her and what they would talk about.

But during her visit, he became frustrated. Although he was constantly near her, he never had the opportunity to say one word to Mother Teresa. There were always other people for her to meet. Finally, her tour was over, and she was due to fly to New Guinea. In desperation, the friar had his opportunity to speak to Mother Teresa. He said to her, “If I pay my own fare to New Guinea, can I sit next to you on the plane so I can talk to you and learn from you?” Mother Teresa looked at him. “You have enough money to pay airfare to New Guinea?” she asked. “Oh, yes,” he replied eagerly. “Then give that money to the poor,” she said. “You’ll learn more from that than anything I can tell you.” The problem was the young man wanted to experience a feeling when he needed to simply learn by doing.

Dear friends, throughout this campaign, my prayer has been that we, as a community,

build a culture of generosity where all of us become more generous with our time, talent, and treasure. The story above illustrates it so well. If we want to be better stewards of God’s gifts, we must learn by giving these precious resources away.

Please take the time to read through this newsletter. It is provided so that on Commitment Sunday, you can discern your commitments with the best information available and in prayer.

On Commitment Sunday, April 24, you will be asked to make an investment in our faith community to ensure that we continue to be a source of encouragement, faith, and God’s love to the world. Join me in praying for our congregation and its leadership so we make the right decisions for our faith family.

In Christ,  
Pastor Ben



## Extravagant Generosity

As a community that practices **Extravagant Generosity**, we take seriously the biblical call to tithe 10 percent of our blessings back to God. With this in mind, we encourage you to pray about your financial commitments to the General Fund and Capital Fund Debt Reduction Drives. We hope this effort is a spiritual exercise, not merely a financial one. Therefore; we ask you to pray:

- Recall the blessings God has bestowed on you. Know that these gifts are given to you, not only for your personal use, but to help further His Kingdom on earth.

- Remember that our church needs each of us to make a commitment to ensure that our community of faith may continue to flourish. It is essential to provide for both current members and the ones who will follow us.
- Bear in mind that every gift, regardless of size, is an important contribution.
- With members of your family, consider the effects of participating in the General Fund and Capital Fund Debt Reduction Drives. To participate fully, your family may need to make sacrifices.

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

### Q: How much are we being asked to contribute to the General Fund Drive?

Giving to FPC's General Fund is an opportunity to share your gifts from God with our faith community in support of our church programs and ministries. To keep our programs and ministries viable and growing, we are asking members to increase your General Fund commitment by 5 percent for the rest of 2016. We know that there are members who are not in a position to increase their giving to the church, therefore, we are encouraging those who are more blessed to give more.

This commitment to the General Fund will be just for 2016. In the fall, we will be asked to make a commitment to the 2017 General Fund. We will continue to have our

annual General Fund Drive in the fall of each year starting in 2016 for 2017.

The chart below shows what a 5% increase looks like.

*The Campaign Steering Committee, made up of 26 church members, has set our 2016 total goal for the General Fund Drive at \$360,000, including January through April contributions. Any excess over and above expenses collected through the General Fund Drive will be allocated by the Session.*

We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you – your energy, your prayers, and your money – in this work to which God has called us.

Henri Nouwen

Current Annual Contribution	Current Monthly Contribution	5% Increase of Your Annual Contribution	New Monthly Contribution	New Weekly Contribution
\$500	\$42	\$25	\$44	\$10
\$1,500	\$125	\$75	\$131	\$29
\$2,000	\$167	\$100	\$175	\$38
\$2,500	\$208	\$125	\$219	\$48
\$3,000	\$250	\$150	\$263	\$58
\$3,600	\$300	\$180	\$315	\$69
\$4,200	\$350	\$210	\$368	\$81
\$4,800	\$400	\$240	\$420	\$92
\$6,000	\$500	\$300	\$525	\$115
\$8,000	\$667	\$400	\$700	\$154

### Q: How much are we being asked to contribute to the Capital Fund Debt Reduction Drive?

We are taking strides to pay our church's debt. If every household contributes, the burden will be easier to bear. We are not asking for everyone to make the same

commitment, but we urge members to make an equal contribution of 4 percent of their annual household income to this effort.

The chart below shows what a 4% commitment looks like.

Current Gross Household Income	Total 4% Contribution For 1 Year	Total 3-Year Contribution	Monthly Contribution	Weekly Contribution
\$12,000	\$480	\$1,440	\$40	\$9
\$20,000	\$800	\$2,400	\$67	\$15
\$30,000	\$1,200	\$3,600	\$100	\$23
\$50,000	\$2,000	\$6,000	\$167	\$38
\$75,000	\$3,000	\$9,000	\$250	\$58
\$100,000	\$4,000	\$12,000	\$333	\$77
\$150,000	\$6,000	\$18,000	\$500	\$115
\$200,000	\$8,000	\$24,000	\$667	\$154

**Q: Why are we doing a Capital Fund Debt Reduction Drive Now?**

When we launched our plan to expand our facilities in 2013, we knew it would cost around \$2 million to complete. At the time, the Session anticipated that it would take a number of capital campaigns to pay for the plan. As a result of our 2013 campaign, we have raised \$589,192. Currently, we owe approximately \$1.6 million. We recently negotiated our long-term loan at attractive terms and are paying approximately \$8,500 per month on a twenty five-year variable rate loan currently at 4%. Our total operating budget, which covers our programs and ministries, salaries, benefits, utilities, and facilities, is about \$27,000 per month. Up to now, the contributions to the 2013 capital campaign have been covering the loan payments of \$8,500 and paying down the principal. In the 2013 campaign, members committed to three years, and that time period is coming to an end. We need to act now so that our operating budget is not adversely impacted by our payments on the debt.

The Campaign Steering Committee has set our total three-year church Capital Fund Debt Reduction Goal at \$500,000. The Committee is convinced, with everyone's participation, we can pay down our debt dramatically.

**Q: Do we need to turn in a commitment card? Can't we just contribute to the two drives?**

It is very important to make a formal commitment by turning in a commitment card. This allows our church leadership to plan more accurately and to budget appropriately. If you're unsure about the amount you will be able to contribute to the two drives, please write down a modest number.

Note: Contributions to the Capital Fund Debt Reduction Drive are listed as "CAPITAL FUND" on the outside of our giving envelope.

**Q: When do our contributions to the General Fund and Capital Fund Debt Reduction begin?**

We are encouraging members to begin your contributions May 1. Members are asked to use the church envelopes that are provided and mark on the outside of the envelope how much money goes to each drive.

**Q: What happens if we can't fulfill our commitment?**

We understand that situations change and member may need to adjust their commitments to the campaign. You can change your commitment levels at any time by contacting Sherry in the office.

**Q: What if we can't make a commitment at this time?**

We strongly encourage members to complete the commitment card and return it with a note that you are not currently able to make a commitment. By returning the card, we will know that you considered our request, and we will not send follow-up mailings or make reminder phone calls to you. Everyone can contribute by praying for FPC.

**Q: What are other ways we can contribute to the Campaign?**

First and foremost, members are also encouraged to consider the donation of non-cash gifts, which include appreciated investment property held more than one year, such as stock, mutual fund shares, bonds, real estate, rental property, and collectibles. Other options include parts of insurance policies and retirement plans. Personal property that has value such as automobiles, boats and jewelry are also good gifts. If you need assistance with non-cash gifts, contact Ken Coryell.

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

Each act of financial giving to the Lord is a testimony to your willingness to TRUST God in your life. Each time you give, you are acknowledging your total and complete dependence on Him as your Heavenly Father. Not to give faithfully to the Lord's work is a sign that you're unwilling to trust God in your life. D.L. Moody, the famous Christian leader once said, "If you don't have much, but give - you will have more. But if you don't give, whatever you have will never be enough."

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**324 North Baltimore**  
**Derby, KS 67037**

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

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

## **Your Presence is Requested at Our Faith In Action Celebration!**

**When:** 5:00 p.m. Sunday, April 3

**Where:** We will first gather in the sanctuary and conclude with dinner in the fellowship hall.

**What to Expect:** During the first part of the night, we will celebrate God's blessings and explore God's future direction for us. We will have time to review how we are fulfilling our CORE VALUES: Discipleship, Evangelism, Fellowship Mission and Worship. A Q&A session will follow the overview. During dinner, we will celebrate our community.

**What to Bring:** The church wants to thank you for your continued support. You are our guest, so all you need to bring is a joyful heart.

**RSVP & Childcare:** Please contact the office to RSVP, 788-2831 or [fpcderby@swbell.net](mailto:fpcderby@swbell.net). We have children and youth activities planned for the first part of the evening, and children may join their parents for dinner in the fellowship hall. The nursery will be available for 3 and under during the evening. If your children will be joining us, please acknowledge this when you RSVP.