



STEWARDSHIP

Psalm 24:1 says “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.” God has put us here as his stewards, to rule over his earth and he blesses us with time, talents, relationships, jobs, and treasures. It’s all God’s and he trusts us with it. He also trusts us to use it for his works and his glory.

While nobody’s life is trouble free, I think most of us would agree we are well and truly blessed.

The congregation of Peace Church has always generous and supportive of the church. When we needed a new organ, the money was raised in a short time. When we began the Capital Improvement campaign to maintain our church campus, we saw over \$210,000 pledged and to date we have collected \$204,000 of the pledged funds. We have a beautiful new kitchen, new lights, several repairs, and funds to fix our roof and air conditioners. It’s been pointed out that most members think we do not have any budget or money problems because of this. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

Our major financial problems are as follows: year after year our Elders on the church council work diligently to control expenses and manage our annual budget. When we send out pledge cards only about half of our members return them. Every year we see pledges of around \$270,000 for a budget of over \$360,000. We just hope, trust, and pray the other \$90,000 is somehow collected. We often have to delay paying bills or supporting the missions work just to make payroll and keep the electricity on. At the end of the summer we are usually \$30-50,000 behind on the budget.

Sadly, we often break even only because of gifts and bequests from the estates of members and friends of the church. This is not the kind of income we want to forecast in the budget.

The other expense that never goes away is the Per Capita expense to support the Presbyterian Church. In 2018, we will pay almost \$12,000. Please pay the Per Capita for each church member; this will help alleviate a major expense.

To conclude, please fill in and return your pledge card. If you are blessed enough to increase your pledge, we appreciate your generosity and support. If you intend to give an amount equal to or even less than before, we just ask that you let us know. An accurate estimate is critical to our financial planning.

I pray that God blesses each of you and your family and ask you to prayerfully consider your pledge and please return your card.

Thank you.

Al Simbritz, Stewardship Chair



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