

TOGETHER WE SERVE, UNITED IN LOVE

2011 STEWARDSHIP
CAMPAIGN



Throughout our day we are pushed and pulled in many directions. We are bombarded with information minute by minute as texts, emails, commercials, tweets, written advertisements and a whole host of words come barreling at us. On a daily basis people, politicians and organizations compete for our attention and support. All of this makes it difficult for us to decide in whom or in what to invest.

How reassuring it is to know that the time, talent and money we invest here at Gay Street United Methodist Church makes a difference in the lives of people every day. It is also empowering to know that we can do far more together than we could ever do alone. When we pledge our financial support to Gay Street United Methodist Church we know that our tithes and offerings, along with those of our fellow worshipers, are multiplied and extended in amazing ways. Here is why. Our ministry is guided by prayer, directed by the Holy Spirit, saturated with the love of Jesus Christ and carried out in community. We are committed to connecting God, to people and to the world in ministry. We are committed to making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. All of this can and does happen when we are faithful in the giving of our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Our financial gifts ensure that hungry people here in Mount Vernon and throughout the world are fed body and soul; that children here in our own neighborhoods and in the neighborhoods of Liberia, Africa learn about God's love for them and how they can share his love with others; that inspirational worship and the beautiful chapel and sanctuary in which these experiences take place happen every week; and that many, many existing and new small groups and ministries continue to touch the lives of people with God's transformative grace.

As we consider how we will financially pledge our support of Christ's ministry here at Gay Street United Methodist Church in 2011, may we do so thoughtfully and prayerfully. May we also know that our support does make a difference, here and around the world.

For "together we serve, united by love"

d' Denise

Questions & Answers

Why should I pledge?

The finance committee of the church is responsible for the income budget and expense budget of the church. Through historical patterns, financial analysis, and listening to the various leaders of ministry at the church, the committee establishes an expense budget. In addition, pledges are collected and tallied which gives the finance committee an idea of the income budget for the church. The finance committee can adjust the income or expense budget throughout the year to insure that the church continues in financial health. Your pledge helps the finance committee to plan appropriately. Pledging also helps with your financial priorities. As you pledge to the bank for a car or a house, your pledge to the church helps you keep focused in the stewardship of your life and resources.

Can I give to the church ministry if I do not pledge?

Yes. Several persons, for a variety of reasons choose not to pledge but are regular supporters of the ministry of this church. Whether you pledge or not, you can receive envelopes that will help you to keep track of your giving record. If you currently are not receiving weekly giving envelopes and would like to, call the church office (392-6626)

How do I make a pledge?

Prayerfully consider your plan of giving for 2011 and fill out the enclosed pledge card. Mail it in the pre-addressed envelope that you will receive or better, bring it with you on Sunday, November 14, 2010 for Consecration Sunday.

What is Consecration Sunday?

Consecration Sunday will be held on Sunday, November 14, 2010. On that Sunday we will celebrate what God is doing in our lives and pledge our support to the church and to God's work in and through the church. Following worship we will join in the fellowship hall for a common meal together. Our Summer Work Mission team will provide the food and serve us. No reservation is required. You need bring nothing with you for the meal. Remember.... We have one worship service on **November 14, held at 10:00 a.m.**



What if my circumstances change during the year and I can't meet my pledge?

A pledge is helpful for the church as they plan the financial year. A pledge is not a bill. You won't receive any nasty letters from the church if circumstances change and you cannot meet your pledge. A pledge is a rational estimate of your giving but it is also a faith statement that says as God provides for your needs, you will give to God's work through the church. God's faithfulness in giving is as important as your faithfulness in giving.

What is my share of the church ministry?

No one can answer that for you but members of the finance committee will be glad to have a conversation with you if you ask. The church believes that generosity is one of the spiritual disciplines that form and transform our lives.

Can I give my gift electronically?

Yes. A form can be sent to you so that your pledge can be set-up electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office 740-392-6626 or jtalbott@gaystreetumc.org. **You may be a current electronic giver but for verification, the financial secretary asks you to please fill out a new form. If your account numbers are still the same just write SAME in the account number areas.** More and more of our life is "virtual" but touch (and other senses) are still important to our worship, therefore offering cards are provided in the pew so that you can physically "give" something as part of the worship service.

Tell me about the financial life of our church for 2010.

The faithfulness of our congregation is amazing. Even with today's economy and the ROOF project, we are on track to meet this year's budget goals. While we haven't quite reached the goal for the ROOF project, your support has been tremendous. Support of the annual budget is just as important - making sure that we can continue to have activities in the building that we have generously pledged to maintain. The Finance Committee and other ministry leaders have tried to be very respectful of the additional request for funding for the ROOF project and have been able to keep the budget increase to approximately 2%. Overall our financial condition is satisfactory and with your continuing support, it will remain in that condition.