



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Spring 2017

Ministry Plan October - March, FY 2018

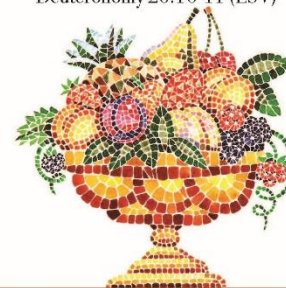
	<u>YTD Goal</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>
Ministry Receipts	\$ 2,287,230	\$ 2,263,216
Ministry Expenditures:		
Vision for Ministry:		
Worship	36,350	21,484
Evangelism	99,540	82,832
Spiritual Growth	108,721	59,865
Ministry Development	7,500	6,034
Congregational Life	63,015	50,420
Missions	<u>274,469</u>	<u>271,586</u>
Total	\$ 589,595	\$ 492,221
 Equipping for Ministry	 1,043,373	 1,000,857
Support for Ministry	<u>569,875</u>	<u>538,387</u>
 Total Ministry Expenses	 2,202,843	 \$ 2,031,465
Excess	\$ 84,387	\$ 231,751

5th Sunday *First Fruits*

Bring your First Fruits
offering on
April 30, 2017

Now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.' And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship the LORD your God. And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you.

Deuteronomy 26:10-11 (ESV)



Our offerings for the first six months of this fiscal year fell slightly below our goal. However, when you compare our first six months to the same period last year, gifts have increased \$84,000! That is almost a 4% increase in giving!! We are all encouraged and strengthened in our mission as a church when God's people prove themselves faithful in the stewardship of their financial resources. Let us continue to grow in His grace and our faithfulness to Him.

This spring our stewardship emphasis day falls on the 5th Sunday of April – thus **5th Sunday First Fruits!** What does a First Fruit offering mean for New Testament believers who also embrace the traditions of the Old Testament based on God's First Fruit gift to us in Jesus Christ? In the Old Testament our **First Fruit** was the first portion of the harvest – the “first of the fruit of the ground”. Today we think of **First Fruits** as the portion of our income that we dedicate to God before other needs or wants. **First Fruits** can also be the time and talent you use for prayer, service to our community, teaching, mentoring, and so much more.

As New Testament believers, we give back to God in obedience and thankfulness. We know God supplies our needs and we are thankful for His abundance. So we ask that you “set it down before the Lord your God” and give to His church on Sunday, April 30. If you are behind on your giving or are being lead to give generously beyond your tithe, **5th Sunday First Fruits** is a great opportunity to make a special offering.

Bring your First Fruits Offering April 30