

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As you consider making a pledge to support the many ministries of our church home, we hope that you will consider several principles of faith-based stewardship.

The first principle is ownership. People of faith should recognize that every talent we have, every opportunity we have taken, everything we think we own, is a gift from our creator. We are called to be faithful stewards of those gifts. We are not the owners of the gifts that God has bestowed.

As stewards of God's gifts to us, we are responsible for how we treat those gifts and what we do with them. The parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) recognizes that while our gifts are not equal, every person, no matter his or her talents, is responsible for them. It has been said that, to those who have been given much, much is expected. However; every pledge, no matter how large or small, is important in the eyes of our creator and certainly important in maintaining our church's ability to fulfill its mission.

The third principle of stewardship is accountability. We all made a promise to support the church with our time, our talents, our gifts and our witness. This is the time of the year when we should reflect on that promise and decide how well we are fulfilling it.

The final principle is that of rewards. We believe all of us want our creator to tell us in time the words of Mathew 25:21 "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your maker's happiness."

Over the coming months we will be providing and emphasizing several new methods to make your ability to fulfill your pledge easier. While we believe that your stewardship is not about an annual budget, we see many opportunities for both laity and staff to expand our ministries both inside and outside our congregation. The stewardship committee would ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your gifts so that we can give our lay leadership and staff more tools to work with.

We have scheduled October 28<sup>th</sup> to be Consecration Sunday and would request that you bring your commitment cards to that Sunday's service or bring them by the office over the next two weeks.

Yours in faith,

Richard Manley  
Joe Wallace  
Co-chairs, Committee on Stewardship