

## **Blessed to be a Blessing**

### *2016 Stewardship Journey*

In the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Old Testament book of Genesis, God comes to a man named Abram with an incredible offer. “I will make of you a great nation,” God tells Abram, “and I will bless you and make your name great.” But there is more – a “so that” -- to the story. Abram and his family will be blessed so that “in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

In short Abram – whom God would later rename Abraham – was blessed so that he could be a blessing to others. It is a theme that is articulated repeatedly throughout Scripture. And it is the theme of this year’s Stewardship Journey at Aledo UMC.

Over the next few weeks, we will be reflecting on how God has blessed us as individuals and as a church, and how we as a community of faith are called to be a blessing to others. You’ll hear stories from your brothers and sisters in Christ, and your Finance Committee will share some information on exactly what that blessing looks like in terms of dollars and cents. Our journey will culminate on Nov. 13, when each of us will have an opportunity to make our pledge to the financial life and ministries of the church for 2017.

So what is your part in all this?

1. Be in prayer. Pray that the people of Aledo UMC will continue to be faithful in our calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world by knowing, loving and serving our God.
2. Begin a prayerful consideration of what you can do. The goal of this journey is not to fulfill a budget, but to create a congregation of mature disciples who understand the responsibility and joy that comes in sharing the blessings with which God has entrusted us.
3. In a couple of weeks you will receive a commitment card in the mail. Complete and return that card as a statement of our faith, beliefs and priorities.
4. Finally, consider setting up weekly, monthly or annual online giving through your financial institution or through PushPay ([aledoumc.org/give/](http://aledoumc.org/give/)). Online giving provides a convenient, consistent and disciplined way to practice faithful generosity.

Friends, we don’t have to look far to see that we are blessed indeed! But we are blessed for a reason – to live out our call to be the blessing for others. We begin this journey together seeking to be faithful to that call.