

Stewardship



God”, we need to lay up our treasures to heaven, not for ourselves. It is our hope that our annual giving will be enough to continue to support and possibly expand many of the important ministries/activities here at FUMC.

During June’s “Stewardship Seconds”, we will concentrate on the ministries that are supported by the “Pastors”. It is true that a large portion of our annual budget goes toward support of our Pastors (including salaries, healthcare, retirement, housing expenses, and travel costs). But the job description for the Pastors is much more than just Sunday morning church services. Besides preparing for Sunday morning worship services, there is planning for the Anchor services, Rejoicing Spirits, and other special services throughout the year (especially during Lent and Advent). The Pastors also plan and lead many Weddings and Funeral services throughout the year. Pastoral Care is a large part of their commitment. This includes visits to Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Rehab centers, and the homebound. Also included under Pastoral Care is pre-marital counseling, and grief, marital, and other personal counseling care. The Pastors also must assume CEO responsibility for the administration and general oversight of all operations of the church, including staff supervision, planning, committee meetings, and district and denominational reporting. The Pastors positional authority puts them right in the middle of local, district, and annual conference denominational issues. It also provides them with committee and Board of Directors opportunities with local charitable and other important denominational organizations. In their “spare time”, they also lead Bible Studies and provide small group leadership support, among other weekly church commitments. During June, be sure to listen and watch as we water and nourish the “Pastors’ Root”. If we have roots **“Grounded in Faith”**, we will be able to **“Grow to Serve”**.

I hope you are enjoying the 2015 Stewardship Campaign and the weekly Stewardship Seconds during each Sunday service. It really is amazing the number of ministries, and the various types of ministries that are supported by our annual unified budget. The congregation is to be commended for their generous and consistent support each and every year. But this year, we have great plans (and needs) for our offerings, above and beyond the “normal” giving levels. At this point, that gap shortfall is estimated to be about \$50,000 (about 5-6%).

Jesus talked often in the Bible about truly being rich. In Luke 15, he warns all of us about covetousness, and how our life does NOT consist in the abundance of the things we possess. In order to be “rich toward