

## Stewardship

Our Stewardship program is beginning its 5th month in August. I hope you are enjoying the Stewardship Seconds each week, as presented by various church leaders/members. The Stewardship Seconds provide an opportunity to hear about some aspect of the life and ministry of First Church using the resources that we provide in our regular offerings to the unified budget. As you will continue to hear each Sunday, FUMC has great plans (and needs) for our offer-ings, above and beyond your “regular” giving levels. Our total year estimated budget shortfall for 2015 continues to be about \$50,000 (about 5-6%). If we can make-up this deficit during 2015, we can continue to provide (or expand) these important church ministries and missions.

Many of us maintain a regular exercise program. It helps us to stay fit and healthy. Lately I have been doing more resistance training, which is meant to strengthen my muscles, correct bad posture, and develop core strength (especially in my lower back). The result is that by regularly strengthening my core muscles, it then becomes much easier for me to complete my daily activities – Regular exercise strengthens my muscles. In 1 Timothy 4:8 it says “For bodily exercise profits a little, but Godliness is profitable for all things having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.” And in 1 Corinthians 16:9, Paul tells us to give to God on a regular basis. So if regular exercise strengthens our body muscles, **regular giving to God will strengthen our generosity muscle.**

During August’s “Stewardship Seconds”, our emphasis will be on the church mission budget. Despite budget issues over the years, First Church has been able to provide at least 10% of the annual budget to missions. Our Mission committee meets regularly to analyze, evaluate, and determine where our precious mission collections should be directed. During the church services in August, you will hear about many of these mission opportunities. From our support of missionaries and our congregational mission trips, to international and local mission organizations, our mission budget helps fund very important projects that spread the word of God throughout the world and make a difference in peoples’ lives. During August, be sure to listen and watch as we water and nourish the “Missions’ Root”. If we have roots “**Grounded in Faith**”, we will be able to “**Grow to Serve**”.

