

Stewardship

GROUNDING IN FAITH -- GROWING TO SERVE

Our Stewardship program is now entering its 7th month in October. I hope you are enjoying the Stewardship Seconds each week, as presented by various church leaders/members.

Take the time to look at the budget tree and notice all the flowers (budget areas) where our offerings are put to use. As the weeks go by, the tree becomes much more colorful, and begins to show the life of our varied ministries.

Each week, 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 offerings, above and beyond your “regular” giving levels. Over the last couple of months, we have started to “pick away” at our budget deficit. The congregation’s response has been both positive and

reassuring. Our total year estimated unified budget shortfall for 2015 has now been

reduced to about \$30-35,000. If we can make-

up this deficit during 2015, we can continue to provide (or expand) these important church ministries and missions. If we cannot make up this deficit, we may be forced to eliminate or reduce some of these important programs, ministries, missions, and/or staffing that we have heard about each week in the Stewardship Seconds.

In the last few months’ articles, we discussed 3 important aspects of giving. In order to be **rich with God**, we need to:

Give to God Cheerfully

Give to God Regularly

Give to God Sacrificially

As you consider making an additional contribution to our unified budget to support these important ministries and programs, just remember these statements.

God doesn’t need our money - he just wants our heart.

Regular giving strengthens your generosity muscle.

It’s not a sacrifice unless you feel it.

And, sacrifice fills our lives with faith – and moves the heart of God.

During October’s “Stewardship Seconds”, our emphasis will be on the Adult Ministries’ budget. You will hear more about how, thanks to your generous giving, this ministry is able to reach out, invite and provide a welcoming environment to the seekers in our community. We are also able to offer opportunities for spiritual growth and discipleship to all, no matter where they are in their spiritual journey, through Bible studies and small groups. An additional focus during October's "Stewardship Seconds" will be on the Health & Wellness Committee. Through your annual giving, First Church's Health & Wellness committee is blessed to be able to provide many different programs (i.e. health lectures) which improve the physical, spiritual and emotional health of both our congregation and the community. During October, be sure to listen and watch as we water and nourish the “Adult Ministries Root”. If we have roots “**Grounded in Faith**”, we will be able to “**Grow to Serve**”.

