

***Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said,
“It is more blessed to give than to receive”.
(Acts 20:35)***

Dear PHUMC family and friends:

It is the time of year when we embark on our annual Stewardship Campaign. The theme this year will surround our new mission to *Gather, Grow, and Go* – to *gather* as God’s people, to *grow* in our faith, and to *go* out into the community to serve.

In order for our church to reach members and the community through our wonderful ministries, and in order to fulfill our financial obligations, it is important to establish the 2010 budget as soon as possible.

Few areas of our Christian life can be more misunderstood and frustrating than that of giving. The Bible teaches us to give cheerfully, yet the whole concept of giving can be daunting.

*Why should I give?
How much should I give?
How is my money going to be used?
Is giving only about money?*

There are four elements to giving that can help answer some of these questions: attitude, advantages, amount, and approach.

Attitude

If I give all my possessions, but do not have love, it profits me nothing (1 Corinthians 13:3). The attitude in which you give is more important than the amount. You are called to give with love, and to give cheerfully. Giving without the proper attitude is of no benefit.

Advantages

...enter into the joy of your Master (Matthew 25:21). Above all else, giving directs your heart and guides you to a more intimate relationship with Christ. Giving is a responsibility of being a steward, and the more faithful you are in fulfilling your responsibility, the more you enter into the joy of knowing Christ intimately.

He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully... (2 Corinthians 9:6) Many people have a hard time believing that giving results in material blessings flowing back to the giver. But the Lord produces an increase so that we may give more and have our needs met at the same time.

Amount

To whom much is given, much is required (Luke 12:48). The New Testament teaches to give in proportion to the material blessings received. It also commands sacrificial giving. Submit yourself to God and earnestly seek His will concerning your giving.

Approach

Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce (Proverbs 3:9). Giving should be periodic and consistent, personal, a priority, premeditated, and without pride.

In the days ahead, please prayerfully consider your giving commitment to the church. For your convenience, enclosed you will find a ***commitment card***. Once complete, please return it to the church during Sunday worship services between now and November 3, and watch our fruit multiply! Or you can simply mail it, or drop it off in the church office during the weeks ahead. And, most importantly, please consider making your commitment sooner rather than later.

By faithfully working together (*gather*), we can expand our ministries (*grow*), and draw ourselves and others closer to Christ (*go*).

As always, thank you for your generosity as you prayerfully commit to God in support of the meaningful ministries at Palm Harbor United Methodist Church.

In His Service,

Cliff Melvin

Senior Pastor
