

*United Presbyterian Church*

*326 South Main Street  
Harrodsburg, KY 40330*

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

TO: Members and Friends of United Presbyterian Church

FROM: The Stewardship and Finance Committee

Pledges help us to plan financially for how we will meet the commitments in our budget. The act of making and fulfilling a pledge also makes giving a more intentional act. It recognizes that we give from the “first-fruits” of our resources, and that we commit to return to God the first portion of what God has given us.

We continue to operate in a deficit spending mode. We are meeting expenses and paying all of our bills on time, in part by relying on funds from the sale of the church manse to fill in the gaps. At this rate, the funds remaining in that account will be exhausted in 2 years. This year, we need to see an increase in the number of pledges as well as the amount pledged in order to work towards ending our cycle of deficit spending.

Last year the average contribution per member was \$890, or \$1768 per worship attendee. This is less than the national average for Presbyterians, which is \$1109 per member/ \$2175 per worship attendee. The Biblical standard for a tithe is 10%, but studies show that average giving in mainline Protestant churches is between 1-2%. Increasing your giving to 10% of your income might not be possible this year, but perhaps you could increase your giving by 10%.

We know that times are hard economically. Some members can afford to increase their giving and others will need to decrease their giving, but together we can meet the challenge before us.

This year we are also including on the pledge card a place to pledge your time and talents. There are some general areas of ministry listed, and many opportunities to get more involved in the church. Just as we give a portion of our income as a tithe and offering to God, we are called to use our time and talents to God’s glory. If we were each to give 10% of our time to the God, that would be more than 10 hours a week, accounting for sleeping hours. Some of that is spent in worship each Sunday, or in personal prayer or Bible study. Consider other ways you might give your time to God – joining a Sunday school class or Bible study, or volunteering within the church or in some other way.

We will have a special time of dedication of the pledges on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your pledge with you or mail it to the church if you are unable to be with us in worship that day. If you have any other questions, you can contact Howard Howells, Sr., chair of the Stewardship and Finance Committee.