



A BASIC PRIMER FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW TO ALL THIS

(reprinted from the 2019 Stewardship letter)

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "STEWARDSHIP?"

The English word "steward" comes from the Anglo-Saxon words "stig" or "stye", meaning an enclosure or a hall, and "wéord," which means keeper. A steward is, literally, a "stye-keeper;" the word now means a person in charge of the property or affairs of another.

A steward acts as a trusted supervisor and/or an administrator of finances and property on behalf of the owner of the property. The relationship between owner and steward is one of confidence; character traits of a good steward are integrity and trustworthiness. As Psalm 24 succinctly says, *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it; the world, and all who live in it."* God is the Owner of all, and we are called to be His faithful stewards, using the time, talent and treasure He has given us to manage according to His intention and will.

WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY "MAKE A PLEDGE?"

A pledge is a written declaration of intent to donate a specific amount of money over a certain length of time. In making a pledge to the church you are making a pledge for the next calendar year with the intention of paying in full by December 31. The pledge is not legally binding; we all understand life happens and circumstances can change; however, you are encouraged to make a pledge that you may reasonably expect to uphold. We recognize that for various reasons some people may prefer to give without pledging; a pledge is certainly not required for church membership. However, (a) those who pledge find a pledge commitment can serve as a gentle yet persistent reminder that we have the ongoing privilege and responsibility to consistently and dependably support the work of the church's mission with our finances, and (b) pledging helps better enable our Session to responsibly and more accurately plan and budget for the future of our church.

WHAT IS THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR?

The Liturgical Calendar orders the annual life of the church according to the life of Christ and events of salvation history. The Common Lectionary recommends a set of Scripture readings organized around the Christian year and attentive to the broad themes of the biblical story. In the Old Testament, seasons of fasting and feasting were observed as occasions for festival worship; for the New Testament church, Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and promised return give meaning to the seasons, help order the annual cycle worship and guide the selection of Scriptures read and proclaimed in worship. Over the years a cycle of festivals and seasons has emerged and is now generally observed throughout the ecumenical church, including these days and seasons:

- Advent, the season to recollect the hope of the coming of Christ, and to look forward to the Lord's coming again,
- Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Christ,
- Epiphany, a day for commemorating God's self-manifestation to all people,
- Lent, a season of spiritual discipline and preparation, beginning with Ash Wednesday, anticipating the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ,
- Holy Week, a time of remembrance and proclamation of the atoning suffering and death of Jesus Christ,
- Easter, the day of the Lord's resurrection and the season of rejoicing which commemorates his ministry until his Ascension, and continues through
- The Day of Pentecost, the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

The church also observes other days such as Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration of the Lord, Trinity Sunday, All Saints Day and Christ the King Sunday

My 2021 Commitment to the Lord

Stewardship: A Way of Life!

Being faithful with my time and talents, I will ...

- Read God's Word
- Pray Frequently
- Worship Regularly
- Support Fellowship Activities
- Seek Ways to Better Serve My Church and Community



Being faithful with my treasure ...

My (our) faith goal in 2021 is to grow in the grace of giving by pledging _____ percent of my (our) income.

My (our) weekly commitment will be \$ _____

My (our) monthly commitment will be \$ _____

Other \$ _____

*Prayerfully consider the faith goal of tithing ...
... giving ten percent or more!*

Name (s) _____

Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian

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Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian

Keep this half for your records

**FROM THE CHAIR OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
AND PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORATION, DENNIS CHARPENTIER**

**STEWARDSHIP:
"Oh, the possibilities at Greenwood!"**

Stewardship is a term used to describe how we use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. The first letter in this envelope addresses the gift of TREASURE; I would like to focus in this writing on how Greenwood members may give of their TIME AND TALENT through service to one of our church organizations and/committees. *(editor's note: during the Coronavirus restrictions, as many of you know, some of the following opportunities have been temporarily postponed, cancelled, adapted and/or otherwise altered ... we hope to resume all these and more when the restrictions are lifted!)*

The Greenwood Music Ministry led by our Director of Music John Black offers many opportunities for you to contribute your talent to our worship services. Participation as an adult or youth choir member, soloist, musician, or bell ringer gives glory to our Lord and majesty to our worship.

Greenwood's Sunday School, 29Eleven Ministry, and Adult Bible Studies offer opportunities to enhance our knowledge of theology. Participation is welcome either as a student, a teacher, or a volunteer.

Our Family Ministries Program continually seeks volunteers to help with: Parents Night Out, Family Focus Wednesdays, Children's Church, Crib Room, and King's Kids.

Your church session employs several committees to address and direct varying ministries and needs of our congregation. Each committee is chaired by a session member who normally serves a three-year term. Committees normally meet once per month during the months of September through June. Committees have a varying focus that ebbs and flows throughout the year requiring more participates during the "busy" times and fewer members/meetings when there is less activity. As an example, the Stewardship Committee needs more help during the budgeting season (October-December) and the Investment Committee only meets once or twice per year to manage the church's endowment fund in conjunction with our financial advisor.

Session Committees:

Member Care: The Member Care Committee seeks to assist members of the congregation in need, often in coordination of the Board of Deacons. They also plan fellowship gatherings for the church family and generally monitor the congregation looking for ways to help where they can.

Mission: The Mission committee monitors and disburses the mission funds from the church operating budget. This group searches for worthy causes worldwide that need the support of our congregation.

Building & Grounds: This committee monitors the condition and functioning of the church property and schedules needed repair/update in conjunction with the sexton. This group organizes church workdays and is responsible for the maintenance of the property.

Stewardship: The Stewardship committee writes and disburses the church operating budget and monitors the endowment fund with the approval of the full session and in conjunction with the church treasurer. This group also encourages the participation of the congregation in volunteering their time, talent, and treasure as in this stewardship campaign.

Worship: The Worship committee schedules, monitors, and maintains items pertaining to worship, including attendance and communion supplies.

Christian Education: In conjunction with the Sunday School superintendent/s, the Christian Education committee maintains and schedules matters pertaining to the Greenwood Church Sunday School and youth activities.

The Board of Deacons is a church organization comprised of elected ordained church members that provide services to those in need. The group is composed of the following service committees:

Board of Deacons Committees:

Communion/Service Preparation: This group coordinates with the session's Worship Committee to prepare the elements and supplies for the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Coffee Hour Preparation: Schedules servers, purchases supplies, and prepares refreshments for the coffee hour in Fellowship Hall each Sunday.

Chancel Flowers: Organizes the purchase/donation/setting of the chancel flowers each Sunday as well as seasonal decorations/arrangements for Easter, Advent and Christmas.

Telephone/E-Mail Tree: Maintains and coordinates this system of communications to alert elders and deacons regarding congregational concerns.

Community Ministries: Coordinates the distribution of "Deaconal Ministries of Compassion" funds to supported agencies, seeks ways to enhance congregational awareness of community ministries, special appeals and offerings, and evaluates and recommends projects and causes for support by the deacons.

Beyond High School: Coordinates and prepares mailings of seasonal gift packages for post high school students at college or in the military.

Prayer Ministry: Compiles prayer requests and updates and corrects the prayer list. Also, keeps prayer request cards supplied to the pews.

The Presbyterian Women is a true manifestation of how we are to behave as Christians. PW is fellowship. Whether it is the spring or fall gathering or the usual monthly Circle meetings, PW is when friends gather to enjoy each other's company and support. It could be a phone call, a visit, providing a meal or the laughter and friendship experienced at a Circle meeting. However, it is shown, you know you're not alone and others are concerned for you. This same concern is also demonstrated in outreach to the community. Whether it is a local social service agency, school kits, Blanket Sunday, Church World Services, Least Coin or one of the regular donations made within the Presbyterian organization, Presbyterian Women seek to care for others, too. The members are also good organizers, talented and resourceful craftsmen, and hard workers.

The annual **May Breakfast** is another example of the teamwork of Presbyterian Women and what can be accomplished in a spirit of fun and fellowship. The **Christmas Bazaar** and the May Breakfast are the main mission fundraisers for the organization and make possible the extensive outreach of the Presbyterian Women in our church, community, and the world. Six Circle groups meet monthly; days and times vary. The **Picasso Quilters** circle meets at various times to make sleeping bags for the homeless.

Finally, the Thirty-Niners: Monthly luncheon and program for our "post 39 years of age" members, usually held on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 at Chelo's on Post Road.

None of these service groups is meant to be full-time but rather on an as needed basis. If you have expertise to assist in one or more of these activities, your Stewardship Committee invites you to **get involved**.

Thank you!

Dennis Charpentier, Chair
Stewardship Committee