

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is the grateful response to God's grace and goodness. It requires a consideration of how...

- Our choices affect us and others,
- We can be good caretakers of the created world,
- We can best serve God as disciples of Christ.

Stewardship is about making choices, as individuals and within the community. It is more than giving money to the church.

Stewardship is about being faithful disciples, caring for and managing all that God has given us.

Stewardship is not just one part of Christian discipleship; it involves every aspect of life ...in all the stages of life.

Why Stewardship?

- Stewardship provides the resources to worship God and to do His work.
- Stewardship enables the Church to exist.
- Stewardship gives us a sense of gratitude for God's love and goodness.
- The act of giving permits us to participate in, witness and enjoy the mission of our church.



God Wants You to...

- Accept His love and forgiveness.
- Spread His word.
- Help those in need.
- Recognize that we are all sinners.
- Have our sins forgiven.
- Have eternal life.

Sounds simple, doesn't it. But can you achieve His "wish list" for us by simply being an observer? Think about it. While doing so, be sure to ask God for His input and you will discover that the role of a Christian involves us all as critical components of His plan. Two of the items listed above call for our action while the others are promises made as His gift to us.

Your acts of Stewardship embrace God's gifts with love and devotion. In doing so, you will be richly rewarded.

**God doesn't give us challenges
to match our strength...
...He gives us strength to
meet our challenges!**

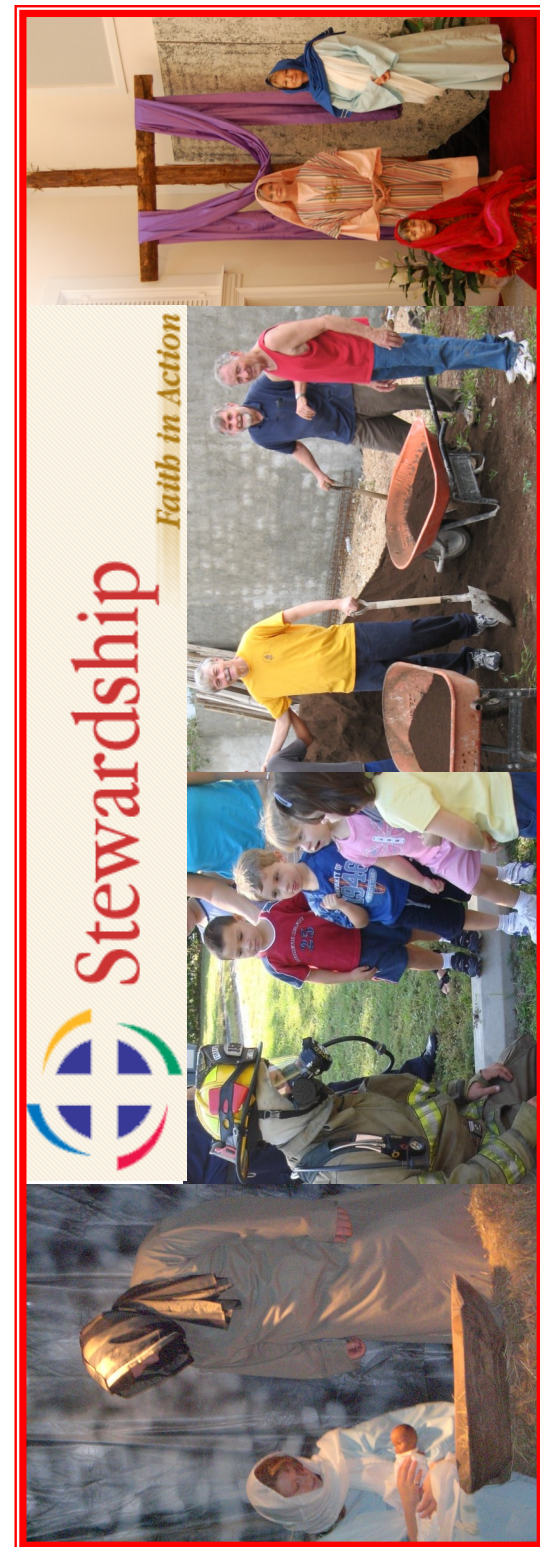


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Your Time

The Stewardship of sharing one's time is central to the needs of the church and its mission. Beside the personal satisfaction of giving your time, you will have the opportunity to know other members on a more meaningful level. Before long, these relationships develop into friendships with those who share your most important beliefs.

The sharing of your time involves basically two levels:

- Amount - how much time can you commit to?
- Scope - can you commit to a leadership role or as a contributor?

There is no better way you can comply with Jesus' teaching to his Disciples when He told them ...

**"You are
the light of
the world"**
Matthew 5, v.14



Of course, there is also private and personal time you spend with God. With prayer and bible study you can enrich your life in many ways as you prepare for and practice your discipleship with God.

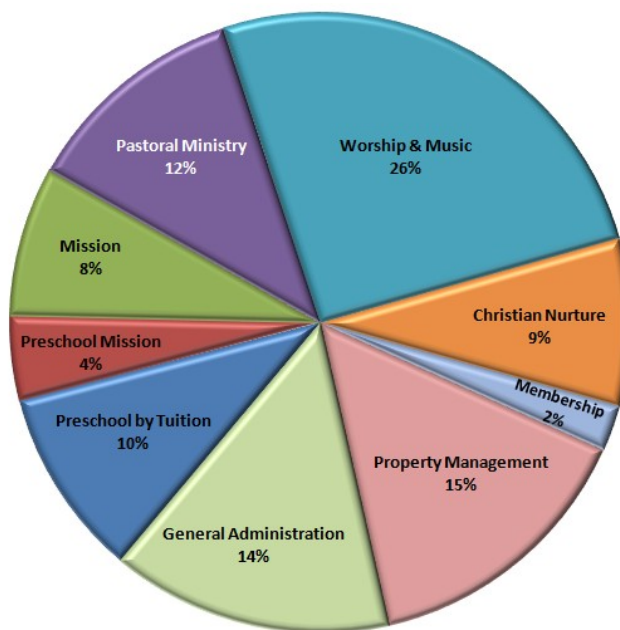
**Some of the best things in life...
...are not really "things" at all.**

Your Treasure

Most of us can examine our own lives and find numerous blessings, perhaps even some astounding miracles. As Christians, we are called to give to God "what is right, not what is left". God calls us to offer our "first fruits," not the "leftovers." Faith-filled, first fruits giving is our opportunity to return to God a small portion of God's abundant blessing in our lives. In addition to our time and our talents, our gifts of financial assets or possessions are an important part of Stewardship

Is my giving level appropriate? Here's a checklist

- Do you believe that God is pleased with your own level of giving?
- Would you feel comfortable if contributions were made public? (God knows)
- There needs to be some sense of sacrifice.
- How does your level of giving compare to tithing? (10% of your income)



How our 2008 budget of \$525,000 is allocated.

Your Talents

What talents, skills or passions would you like to share with your church? Perhaps you have special skills that you would like to put to good use, or conversely, you may wish to develop new skills and abilities. Or perhaps you may just want to help out in a meaningful way.

Opportunities are abundant here at First Presbyterian:

- You can be a teacher or a learner
- You can be a leader or a contributor.
- You can be a part of establishing the future direction of the church by serving on the Session or one of its committees.

Specific talents and skills might include:

- Music (vocal and instrumental)
- Knowledge of the Bible
- Working with children
- Serving as office receptionist
- Computer skills and knowledge
- Working with your hands (handyman)
- Photography, artwork and graphics
- Writing and composition
- Knowledge of law and/or finance

These are only examples, as virtually all skills and/or talents can serve your God.

**Share with God
the gifts He has given to you.**

(Please complete the back side of the pledge card)

