



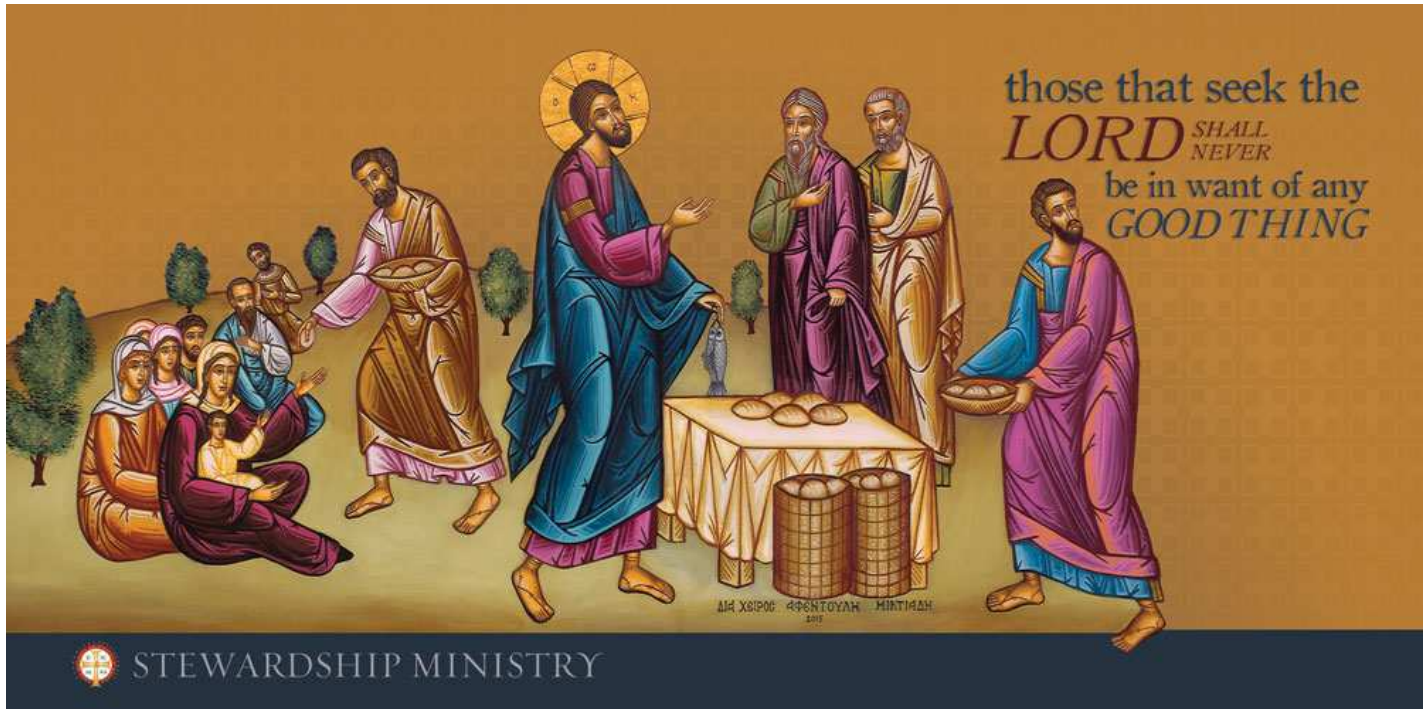
Stewardship Campaign

Sunnyvale First United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086



October 2017



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY- NOVEMBER 19

Stewardship season is on. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed. As stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Christian stewardship is learning to be a responsible caretaker of Christ's church, learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in church work. It involves our active commitment to use our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind.

This is a time to consider not only your financial support to the church, but also your non-financial support. As for the financial portion, both members and non-members can make a pledge of financial support for the calendar year 2018. Pledges help us plan ahead for the coming year. So, please watch for your pledge card to arrive in the mail, mark the date on the calendar, and plan to join us in church on Sunday, Nov 19, 2017.

Not only will we offer our estimates of giving for next year, but we will join together in a church-wide celebration of the abundance of our God.

We look forward to seeing you.

Notes from the Pastor

Pastor Guest



How do we define stewardship?

Stewardship is another way of talking about ministry, and it would revolutionize ministry if people could think of it in terms of stewardship—that we are accountable to God for what we do and with what God has trusted to us.

The word stewardship comes from the Greek word “*oikonomos*,” which means somebody who manages a household. A person doesn't own the household but manages it. And stewards in the ancient world, of course, were trusted with everything from seeing that the floors were clean, to the finances, to the public face of that household. Joseph is a good biblical example of that. We are not the owners but have been trusted with resources and the care of everything—Creation, gifts and talents, money, time, the gospel—for the sake of God's purposes in the world.

You mentioned that stewardship is another way of talking about ministry. Would you expand on that?

The word ministry in both Greek and Hebrew is the same word as servant. And servants are people who are at the disposal of another. And so once we replace the word ministry with the word service, we begin to see that

stewardship is ministry in the sense that all of us, not just pastors, are responsible to do what God wants and are accountable for the same. We do that in the power of the Spirit, with the anointing touch of God. But it's a service to God and to the world simultaneously. So, the word ministry points to the source and the ultimate goal, and the word stewardship implies the care of people, resources, gifts, and talents, and the grace of God.

Is our accountability to God just individual, or is it also corporate?

The rights of the whole in some ways precede the rights of the individual. We do have an individual responsibility—in the home, family, neighborhood, local church, workplace, etc. But we should see that we're trustees of talents, gifts, time, treasure, and the culture and values in the society around us. The church has been reluctant to embrace that, but when it does miracles abound.

Give an example of how a person can practice stewardship in their everyday jobs.

Here's a classic example. In the small village of Walkerton, Ontario, stewardship was not exercised in the water department, and e. coli bacteria got into the water system. People died and dozens of people were sick. If the folks that had worked in that water department had thought of themselves as stewards, they would have seen that the proper testing took place so that the water was pure. So maintaining the infrastructure is good stewardship.

How can encourage people who are doing this?

A friend in Chicago had a blood test recently. He said to the lab technician,

"What you're doing is really important." And she answered, "I know it's really important. This is where diagnosis starts. It may lead to surgery. It could lead to medication. It can lead to real help for a person." And he thought, that's great. Here's a person who can see that she indirectly loves her neighbor.

How can we be good stewards without feeling overwhelmed by the responsibility?

As we begin our stewardship campaign, we encourage you to think about the special ways God has been using you to witness for Christ and to make our world one that reflects the prayer, “Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” The answer you come up with will be the one that you have worked out with God.

About Pledging to Support the Local Church Budget

Making a pledge for the calendar year is the method that has been chosen by our finance committee. This is a method that may be new to some who have recently united with First Church, but it is a longstanding practice. In the Sundays ahead before our Stewardship Sunday in which all pledges are received, we will have members of the finance committee share the meaning of pledges as a very small part of our overall stewardship commitment as members of the church and participants in the Body of Christ.

May you ever seek the Spirit's guidance, as we grow in grace together.

Pastor Guest

Finance

Les Cline

First UMC Sunnyvale Finance Committee Report-October 2017

The Finance Committee oversees the income and expenses that keep our church going. Committee members are approved at the annual Church Conference, and work very closely with Pastor Guest and our church's outstanding professional bookkeeper, Terry Won. Per long-standing tradition, the committee meets in the church office at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Each meeting is open to all, and anybody who's interested in church finances is welcome to attend.

Our church finances follow an annual budget that runs from January through December. About this time each year, our bookkeeper creates a very preliminary expense budget for the next year, based on this year's actual expenses and projected increases in staff salaries, utility bills, and other costs. Then, over the next few months, the Finance Committee balances these projected expenses against projected income, and produces a final budget that is ratified at Leadership Council. The majority of our income is from pledges and offerings by people like you. Most of the rest of our income comes from renting our facility to the Good Samaritan Korean Methodist Church, the Daybreak program, the Senior Nutrition Program, and several other groups.

Each year, our budgeting process starts with more expenses than income, because we include many things that we would like to do to benefit our church, our community, and our extended ministries. In addition, unlike some churches, our church is not an independent organization; we are a "connectional" church that's part of the United Methodist Church's California-Nevada Conference. This "connection" enables our church to participate in district, conference, national and global ministries and activities. But, it also places a "conference tithe" financial obligation on our church, which we include in the budget. So, just like everybody else that lives within a budget, we must make tough choices about what's needed to keep our church operating (salaries, utilities, supplies, and such), and about longer-term or big-ticket things that need to be done soon but maybe can be deferred.

We are very fortunate to have an excellent pastor and church staff, and a beautiful campus for worship and education. However, in many previous years, our church had a very lean budget that could not afford annual maintenance on our buildings and grounds, and this resulted in a long list of big-ticket items that must be done over the next few years to maintain the safety and utility of our campus. Much of the funding for the Trustee's Pews Refurbishment project and last year's Sewer Repair project came from two very generous bequests that are now exhausted, so further progress on the Trustee's long list of church improvements will need to be done within next year's church budget constraints.

So far, 2017 has been a good year; pledge income is close to the amounts pledged (though, non-pledge income has been much lower than anticipated), and rental income has been on-track. We've benefited from a few expenses that have been lower than budgeted, but this surplus has been absorbed by a few unexpected unavoidable expenses. The 2017 Budget that was approved in January projects a gain of \$1,809 for this year, and very preliminary indications are that we should end the year fairly close to break-even. Looking forward to 2018, it's clear that in order to cover the expenses that extend our ministries and enhance our campus, we'll need more income than we'll receive this year.

Please prayerfully consider increasing your pledge for 2018, or if you choose not to pledge, increasing your total offering for 2018. This money is an investment in our church's mission and future, and your generosity is essential in keeping our church operating and moving forward.



STEWARDSHIP/
FINANCE
COMMITTEE

Finance

First UMC Sunnyvale Finance Committee Report Les Cline, Finance Chairperson – October 2017

Ok, let's talk a bit more about 2017 ... thanks for asking! First of all, I'm pleased to report that, for January through August this year, our church is still in business and in a good financial position.

- **As of August 31, 2017, the church's bank account contained \$77,545, and the church's total assets were \$105,710.**
- **For the first 8 months of 2017, Total Income was \$239,603 and Total Expenses were \$243,540; this adds up to a \$3,937 deficit. (The 2017 Budget projects a \$188 loss at this point in the year, so we're close to where we want to be.) Through August, nearly all Expenses are under-budget (which is good), but Income is also under-budget (which is not so good), primarily due to shortfalls in both Pledge Income and Non-Pledge Income ... so, the Finance Committee would greatly appreciate everyone to please check your contributions and your finances, and try to catch up if you're a bit behind where you intended to be.**

Here's where the \$243,540 January thru August Expenses have been spent:

General & Administrative (office supplies, copier, computers): \$7,430 (3.05% of total expenses)
 Staff Expenses (salaries and related expenses): \$137,467 (56.45%)
 Worship Service (worship supplies, childcare, vacation substitutes): \$2,765 (1.14%)
 Committees & Christian Education: \$1,983 (0.81%)
 Conference Tithe: \$13,993 (5.75%)
 Church Physical Plant (insurance, utilities, repairs): \$55,503 (22.79%)
 Parsonage (mortgage, taxes, repairs): \$17,732 (7.28%)
 Senior Nutrition Program Support: \$6,667 (2.74%)

In January 2017, the Leadership Council approved a 2017 Budget with a surplus of \$1,809. (For reference, the approved 2016 Budget deficit was \$19,032, but when we closed the 2016 books early this year, 2016 Income was only \$2,382 lower than 2016 Expenses.) As with every year, we're hopeful that income will end up near our forecast, and as always, we'll be watching expenses very carefully for the rest of this year. Finally, the Finance Committee would like to thank everyone for their very generous ongoing financial support for our church and its many activities.

“I want you to experience the blessing that issues from generosity”

Philippians 4:15

“Not, how much of my money will I give to God, but how much of God's money will I keep for myself”

John Wesley

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Our Church Staff

We are a committee whose purpose is to encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor, staff and their families.

This past year we celebrated Pastor Dave's service and retirement with a Hawaiian-themed farewell. We will be celebrating all of our wonderful employees for their many years of service on Sunday,

Nov. 19. (We will have a basket for cards for those who want to recognize staff.) We

recently welcomed Pastor Guest to the church staff, and we are so glad to have him as part of our church family!

The SPRC is comprised of church members who, along with the congregation, are truly blessed with an exceptional Pastor and Staff.

Our talented staff includes,

Pastor Guest, Pastor; **Ruhi Nathan**, Office Manager; **Don Cardoza**, Organist/Pianist; **Tonya Oravetz**, Choir Director; and **Terry Won**, Bookkeeper. Combined, our staff keeps our church running efficiently and effectively.

Please note that we rely on the generosity of your pledge to help pay the salaries of our employees. without which the services they provide would be noticeably reduced.

Church Leadership Council

The ministry of the FUMC Leadership Council provides a focal point for guidance, oversight and communication across all our ministries, as represented by the committees of our church and its members at large. Our continuing ministerial goal is to grow the relationships among all our ministries to help nurture and accomplish God's work through these ministries. For 2018, we will continue to explore and support new ministerial opportunities within our church which

weave the cultural diversity of our



congregation. The Church Leadership Council meets the 4th Tuesday at 7:30p.m in the Ralston room

about every other month. Leadership Council membership is open to all church members, but council membership is limited in number; at this time there are vacancies to be filled. The meetings are open to all and everyone is welcomed to attend.

Please prayerfully consider your pledge as it enables our church to continue its ministries, and assures their future.

Music

Music is a precious and vital element of our church's life. Music brings us closer to God, lifting the spirit and praising the Lord in unique and wonderful ways.

Because of your pledges, we are able to bring many aspects of music into our worship experience. We are especially blessed to have Don as our organist/pianist. His musicianship and warm spirit are true gifts. We are also blessed to

have a wonderful choir committed to bringing music to the congregation and praising the Lord in song. The choir is both a singing group and a family. We lift each other musically, spiritually and emotionally.

Over the last year, we have sung beautiful ballads, energetic spirituals, and hymn classics. The choir also sang music from around the world for our Multicultural Celebration month. We enjoyed prais-

ing the Lord with music of many styles; from gospel to classical, from traditional to contemporary.

As you consider your pledge, please remember all that the music of our church does for us as we join together in worship.



Trustees

The church Trustees are the stewards of the church properties and the legal representatives for the congregation. We meet on the first Sunday of the month after the second church service. Our church ages just as we age. We have been saying for many years that bigger, more expensive problems were coming.

Last year we had to replace the 60+ year old sewer pipes. This year we have been planning for 2018 by examining what it will take to replace the water pipes in Nick's Hall, paint the classroom exteriors and develop a plan for a lot of roof repairs/replacements. The good news is that you, the congregation, pulled together financially to make the repairs and upgrades happen in 2016 and 2017. The Trustees do their best to keep problems associated with our wonderful, but aging, facilities under control. There are more users of our facilities now than ever before, and that wear and tear will require more maintenance projects in the future. During 2017, some of the areas that have been improved or repaired are:

- FUMC was assigned a new pastor starting in mid-2017. The parsonage was in desperate need of cleaning, carpeting, a refrigerator, a faucet and painting.
- Nick's Hall: Exit/Emergency light fixtures were repaired.



Trustees

The main floor was cleaned and waxed. The overhead leak in the Men's Room in the hallway near the Fireside Room was patched. Two walls in the janitor's closet were replaced due to water damage.

- Sanctuary: Several of the doors needed adjustment and/or repair. Dislodged shingles in the roof were restored to their original positions. Portions of the roof were patched and/or replaced.
- Campus: The heavy rains during the winter caused six leaks. The roofing materials on all flat roof portions of our facilities are already well beyond their useful, projected life. A new longer lasting roof was installed over the Korean offices. The remainder of the leaks were patched and will likely fail within five to seven years.
- Also, the rains caused significant damage to a wall in the Pastor's office and the adjoining men's restroom. This wall was replaced.
- The playground 'mulch' that had been contaminated during the sewer problems last year was replaced.
- Another Boy Scout Eagle project was proposed, accepted and completed between the Sanctuary and Office which included preparing the soil, installing irrigation components, erecting a pergola and placing a bench under it.
- A couple of our 'tenants' requested additional storage space for their equipment. Their 'plans' required significant time and effort working with them and the city to establish a workable, legal solution. This is still in progress.
- Legal: Backflow and Fire Suppression systems were inspected. The county property tax reporting requirements changed significantly and the number of pages in our submission grew by a factor of four.

There are a myriad of typical smaller homeowner-like activities that the trustees are tasked with resolving like fixing sagging doors, replacing worn out hinges and/or locks, painting, cleaning out rain gutters and downspouts, watering plants/areas where sprinklers or a drip system is not available, replacing burned out lights, fixing leaking faucets and toilets. We keep busy.

Endowment Fund

The Permanent Endowment Fund was created 21 years ago and exists solely for the charitable purposes of the First United Methodist Church of Sunnyvale. Its principal objective is the promotion of religious, charitable, and educational activities of the church.

Recently, several different church members and staff have assisted in sustaining these investments. The total principal of the fund is \$59,127. The current value of the fund is approximately \$66,500. A recent investment in PAX WORLD assisted in control of the fund. In the coming

years, it is evident that the moral consequences of these investments will become more imperative to implement.



Missions

Our adopted child, Parmisa Marandi in India is turning 16 years old this October. We've supported her schooling for around ten years through Child Fund.

Since the Faith In Action Rotating Shelter reopened six years ago we have hosted the homeless at our church. The total number of men in the program during that time was 231 and 117 have been moved into permanent housing. I have enjoyed working with these wonderful guys and working with this interdenominational group concerned about

homelessness. We have had a Covenant Relationship in supporting Katherine Parker for seven years through earthquakes,



famine and floods! We have all been called on to pray for our country this year. A new President and hurricanes, flood, etc. It's good to be part of a connectional church with the resources to help reach out wherever needed. Thanks to all who have given to those areas.

The Committee deeply appreciates the church's support to make the above mentioned services possible.

Senior Nutrition Program

One of Church's Outreach programs is the Senior Nutrition Program. The program was started 44 years ago at our Church. A year later the Santa Clara County started its own Senior Nutrition program. The Church's program aligned itself with County's program and started receiving its funding from the County.

The funding for the Nutrition Program, typically, is from three organizations: Santa Clara County, City of Sunnyvale and the Church. This year, we applied and received additional funding, for the program, from the Beulah Older Adult Grant Fund.

The program serves hot nutritious meals in Nick's Hall 5 days a week.

The meal is cooked onsite – a gas grill adding to the variety. The program not only provides food, but also a place for social interaction amongst the participants. The highlight of the day, for some participants, is the dancing to a live band, prior to the meals

being served. You can also find participants working on jig-saw puzzles, keeping the mind active. Some of the participants get their exercise playing virtual arcade games on a Wi connected to a TV. The participants have been raving about the yoga sessions. Program celebrates participants birthdays and other special events.

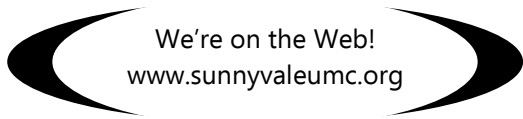
All seniors are invited to support the program by joining in the comradery and nutritious hot meals in Nick's Hall daily.

Please spread the word to all who could benefit from our Mission for the local community.



First United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd.
Sunnyvale, CA 94086



Next article due date is October 20

Education

Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits. We offer 3 education classes from children to adults.

After a Children’s message in the beginning of the church service, children are dismissed to their Sunday School classes. Our nursery is available for young children ages 0-3, and a Sunday School class is offered for Grades K-8.

We have story time, reading the bible, songs, crafts, and bible related videos during Sunday School.

For the Adults in our congregation we have an ongoing Adult Study group every Sunday at 9:15am in our church library.

Pastor Guest leads a Bible Study on “Putting Jesus First” in his office every Wednesday at noon.

Please consider pledging your time and/or money to help enrich their

Christian faith. Pledges help us to plan events for next year, and to buy materials, and supplies, to support the various activities we organize. This in turn helps us in providing a happy and enriching experience for all participants.



THANKSGIVING POTLUCK—NOVEMBER 19



Join us for a Thanksgiving Potluck on Sunday, November 19 in Nick’s Hall after the 10:30 a.m service, to give thanks for the many blessings bestowed on our church.

Please bring an appetizer, entrée or dessert to share. Turkey, mashed potatoes, and gravy will be provided by the Church.

For more information to help in set-up and clean-up, please contact Darryl Alford.