

Stewardship Committee
Report to Congregation Council
June 2010

The Stewardship Committee met on May 25, 2010.

The Committee continued its discussion about the fall stewardship initiative, which will culminate with Stewardship Emphasis Weekend on October 23-24, 2010. The Committee established two goals for the 2010 initiative: 1) with respect to financial stewardship, encouraging giving units to grow 1% in giving for 2011 and 2) with respect to stewardship of time and talents, encouraging members to find one new way to “touch or be touched” by Trinity’s ministries in 2011. Temple talks leading up to Stewardship Emphasis Weekend will provide opportunities to present stories of how Trinity’s ministries have touched the lives of both congregation members and the community.

The Committee discussed ways to help educate and inform members about how their gifts of time, talents and treasures are used to support the congregation’s mission and everything needed to carry out that mission, including our physical plant and staff. Pastor Ludwig will discuss with staff the Committee’s recommendation that Trinity’s Council, committees, and ministries, along with community ministries supported by the congregation, be included in the prayers of the church each week in rotation (similar to how several members of the congregation are prayed for each week).

As noted previously, the Committee will be focusing during the fall initiative on increasing participation in Simply Giving/eGiving. An informal survey conducted by Committee members over the past month suggests that additional education about how the program works would be helpful (currently, approximately 20% of membership contributions are made via Simply Giving/eGiving).

It is difficult for the Committee to assess whether the new method of distributing offering envelopes via bi-monthly mailings has had an effect on giving (either positive or negative) because of other variables (e.g., the economy, senior pastor transition). The Committee anticipates that this method will continue to be used in 2011. The vendor will be approached about whether a note or short letter can be included in each mailing, since one of the goals of bi-monthly distribution is to provide additional opportunities for communication with members regarding financial stewardship.

The next meeting of the Committee will be on June 22, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa M. Leber, Chair