

“Sharing God’s Abundance”

Welcome to the UPC 2015 Stewardship Campaign!

You will soon receive an informative, colorful stewardship brochure describing many of the good works of University Church and inviting you to bring your generous pledge for 2015 to a Dedication Sunday worship service on November 16.

What is pledging? Pledging is a commitment in response to God’s call and abundance in our lives to make a financial contribution to support the mission and ministry of University Church. In determining our pledges, we should consider our gifts, resources and income and determine what portion we wish to give back to God through our community of faith. We should pray and talk to one another in order to discern what God is asking of us and how we should respond.

Why is pledging so important? The quick answer is that formal commitments help the church plan for our many missions in the coming year—from our education, music and youth programs to our local and global outreach ministries. Pledging is a joyful way of *Sharing God’s Abundance* to do His work at home and in the world.

A deeper answer lies in how the act of pledging impacts each of us. Jesus frequently taught about stewardship and said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21 and Luke 12:34)

Pledging is evidence that we put God first and reaffirms that living out the call to be a disciple of Christ is a priority in our lives. Pledging is both a spiritual decision and a spiritual discipline, enabling us to be regular and intentional in our offering. Our giving is planned—and from our first fruits—rather than from what is left over.

What is our pledging goal? Sixty-three percent of UPC households made pledges last year, a percentage we know can improve. Of course, some who do not pledge still give. While very much appreciated, non-pledged giving makes budgeting much more difficult. As good stewards, the Session can only plan ministry and mission for subsequent years with funding it knows will be there. Quite simply, every pledge matters.

We also encourage you to consider raising your pledge to a higher level if you are able. The stewardship brochure presents a breakdown of pledging levels from last year’s campaign. Where are you now? Where might God be calling you to go with your giving?

What about this year? In the final weeks of 2014, we invite you to prayerfully consider your support for *this* year. Summer construction caused a temporary decline in attendance, impacting offering plate giving and straining our current budget. If your pledge isn’t up to date, are you able to make it so? Can you give more now, perhaps even exceeding this year’s pledge?

Stewardship is what we do with our lives based on what we say we believe. We are immensely grateful for the many gifts of time, talents and treasure that have built and nourished University Church through the years, and we are grateful for your continued and increased support that will enable it to continue doing God’s work next year. For more information about the 2015 Stewardship Campaign, please visit www.upcch.org/info/stewardship.html.



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UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2015 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

2015 Stewardship Campaign Chairs

Kelly Ross and Bill Whisenant
Ashley and John Wilson

UPC Stewardship Committee

Perry Aycock, Kirsten Barker, Jim Baxley, John Falletta, Don Hunter, Jay Klompmaker, Daphne Little, Susan Ross, Bonnie Simms, Scott Singleton, Ashley Wilson and John Wilson