

How Do I Make a Capital Gift Decision?

The measure of Stewardship is not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice. Not everyone has the resources to make a quarter-million-dollar gift, but every person can meaningfully invest themselves in what God is doing at this church in proportion to the resources he or she has to work with.

If there is no formula for what you should give, then how do you determine that commitment amount? Try answering the following questions to gauge your own internal measures.

- ☐ In a personal way, how will this commitment make a difference to me?
- ☐ Does this commitment change my life, investing me in the mission and calling of the church?
- ☐ Is this a decision I am willing to take time to pray about, genuinely seeking God's guidance in how God might work through me?
- ☐ Is this a decision I have had a significant conversation about with my family and with my larger family of faith?
- ☐ Have I thought creatively about a comprehensive giving plan that represents what I can do? What could I sacrifice to free my resources?

☐ Have I discovered a new joy in giving? Have I found joy in being invested in what I believe in? There is something deeper about the life of faith that we never fully experience until we learn to give ourselves as fully, freely, and deeply as God gives to us.

- ☐ INDIVIDUALLY the challenge is for each of us to find the unique ways we can help to achieve our goals for our church. For some, it means a weekly or monthly offering beyond our current support for the church. For others, it means gifting a tangible asset to the church (stocks, bonds, property, etc.). For still others, it means transforming time, talent, or ability into a financial gift to invest in the future of the church.
- ☐ TOGETHER we want to go beyond the "milestones" set to gauge our commitment progress.
- ☐ Each one of us needs to prayerfully ask the question – Lord, what would You do through me to accomplish Your will in my life and the life of my church?

A Look at Two Families' Commitment to Increase Giving

| Activity | Week | Year | 3 years |
|---|---------|---------|-----------------|
| Eliminate family meal out..... | \$50.00 | \$2,600 | \$7,800 |
| Eliminate 1 video rental/weekly..... | 3.00 | 156 | 468 |
| Reduce Christmas Budget..... | | 250 | 750 |
| Reduce Vacation budget..... | | 250 | 750 |
| Eliminate 4 "dates" | | 250 | 750 |
| Eliminate 1 cup of coffee/day – John... | 3.50 | 182 | 546 |
| Eliminate 1 cup of coffee/day – Betty . | 3.50 | 182 | 546 |
| Erik's Commitment..... | 1.00 | 52 | 156 |
| Andrew's Commitment..... | .50 | 26 | 78 |
| One old savings bond..... | | | 100 |
| | | | <u>\$11,944</u> |

| Activity | Week | Year | 3 Years |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Increase cash giving..... | \$50.00 | \$2,600 | \$7,800 |
| Eliminate one meal out..... | 50.00 | 2600 | 7,800 |
| Reduce Christmas budget..... | 500 | 500 | 1,500 |
| Reduce vacation budget..... | 500 | 500 | 1,500 |
| Delay TV purchase 3 years..... | | 1,300 | 1,000 |
| Helen reduce groceries budget..... | 25.00 | 1,300 | 3,900 |
| Helen give garage sale income..... | | 300 | 900 |
| Bill reduce golf outing..... | 3.50 | 650 | 1,950 |
| Eliminate 1 cup of coffee/day – Bill | 3.50 | | |
| Eliminate 1 cup of coffee/day – Helen | 3.50 | | |
| Aaron eliminates 1 soft drink a day..... | | | |
| Missy gives from income..... | | | |
| Family gives from income..... | | | |
| Faith commitment..... | | | |

March, 2007

Dear Church Family,

In 1883, God gave a room full of men and women a vision: to plant a new church in Petaluma. The minutes of that meeting, July 22, records that after "earnest prayer, invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the blessing of the Great Head of the Church," forty-five people signed the founding charter.

Our prayer continues into the 21st century. With our eyes fixed on our leader, Jesus Christ, we still pray for the guidance and filling of the Holy Spirit in our church.

The leaders of our church are convinced that God is calling us to take bold steps forward in our ministries and with the facilities that house them. We have renewed our commitment to helping people grow as disciples of Jesus Christ in the community of the church, reaching out in love to our world.

I believe our door of opportunity is our capital stewardship program — *Bridge to the Future*. Please take the time to read this brochure. As you do, pray for God to give you clarity about His will for you and your family and how you may invest yourself in something eternal here at First Presbyterian Church. Simply ask God, "What is Your will for me as it relates to Your will for our church?" Then, by faith, follow as the Spirit leads.

This brochure will assist you in your spiritual journey. What all of us will find as we enter a new door of great opportunity will be exciting. May God bless you in these holy days.

In Christ's Love,



Pastor Dave

