



Connexion

Volume 6 Issue 18

October 19, 2011



Financial Pledge

Trusting God for the future, I/we desire to be faithful in giving so others can experience God's love through the ministries of our church.

Name: _____

Total commitment for the year:

\$ _____

Anticipated schedule and amount:

\$ _____ Weekly for 52 weeks

\$ _____ Monthly for 12 months

\$ _____ Annually

This represents a :

- Tithe
- Step Beyond Tithing
- Step Up Toward Tithing

(The tithe is the biblical standard of 1/10th of one's income)

I would like more information about setting up automatic bank drafts for giving. (Phone: _____)

Place this Commitment Card in the offering plate on Sunday morning during worship or mail to the church office.

Your faithful commitment and gifts will remain confidential. A financial commitment to your church is not a legally binding contract. It is your personal commitment to the Lord. If your situation changes in the next year, your commitment may be altered.

Pledge Sunday is October 30.

Join us for this special day of worship. To the left is a copy of the pledge card. Please begin to pray about what percentage of your income you can give to God's work in 2012.

Pray remembering givers need to give more than churches need to receive.

From the Finance Chair

Here we are in mid-October already. We have already had the Charge Conference and presented a 2012 budget in the amount of \$900,016. As you can see we are in the red much more than I had hoped for. However it is \$11,218 better than last year at this time. I would once again like to thank you for your continued support of this church. It is also hoped that we will finish this year in the black.

At this time I would like to talk a little about stewardship. We have not had a stewardship campaign for a few years. Last year we had a drive to pay off as much of our building note as we could. This congregation answered that call. Now that we have moved the remainder of the building note in our 2011 budget and there are no more building campaigns, it is time to examine our stewardship.

Pastor Russell has already laid out his plan on a four week series, (Predecessors of Plenty) this month on stewardship both in the October 3rd issue of the newsletter, along with the theme of each sermon. At the end of this series, we will be asking everyone to examine their giving and to fill out a pledge card for 2012. It is my hope that even in these times we will continue to answer the call to do God's work. Will you answer the call?

Ed Dame

Deuteronomy 15:10

Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.

BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER!



OCTOBER 9

10:30 AM Worship	282
6:30 PM Worship	19
Total	301
Sunday School	171

OCTOBER 16

10:30 AM Worship	275
6:30 PM Worship	61
Total	336
Sunday School	165

Financial Update

	September 30, 2011	Year to Date September 30, 2011
Contributions & Other Receipts	\$57,886.00	\$569,908.00
Less: Expenses	-\$75,694.00	-\$633,774.00
Net Gain or (Net Loss)	-\$17,808.00	-\$63,866.00



Starting in **NOVEMBER**, the Connexion will be distributed **ONCE** a month instead of every two weeks. The Connexion will be emailed and mailed on the **LAST** Wednesday of every month. Which means the dead line for articles will be the **Monday** before the last Wednesday.

Below is the schedule for upcoming Connexion:

Articles due - Mon., Oct. 31
Paper mailed - Wed., Nov. 2

Articles due - Mon., Nov. 28
Paper mailed - Wed., Nov. 30

Articles due - Mon., Dec. 26
Paper mailed - Wed., Dec. 28

Articles due - Mon., Jan. 23
Paper mailed - Wed., Jan. 25

A SPECIAL REQUEST

IN AN ATTEMPT TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF ALL OF OUR MEMBERS, WE ARE ASKING THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO PLEASE PARK ACROSS THE STREET ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AND SUNDAY MORNINGS, LEAVING THE CLOSER PARKING AVAILABLE TO THOSE WITH SPECIAL PARKING NEEDS.

SchoolWorks

Do you have time and talents to work with an elementary student? **SchoolWorks** is a new coalition of churches working with Irving ISD to make a difference in our neighborhoods. The mission is to provide **Half-Hour Heroes** – volunteers who spend 1/2 hour a week and meet with an at-risk child. At the elementary level, you are a **Reading Buddy**, and in middle school, a **Lunch Buddy**. This is very similar to our past tutoring activities at Paul Keyes Elementary School. All you have to do is commit 30–60 minutes each week, at a time that best fits your schedule. If you are interested, call Rod Alleman, 972-258-0346. Please consider giving some of your time to this very worthwhile and rewarding outreach activity.

October is FOOD BANK MONTH!!!



Here is a list of suggested items to bring....

Canned Meats, Chili, Coffee / Tea, Cooking Oil, Hamburger Helpers, Jell-O, Mayonnaise, Ramon Noodles

Diapers (Size 3 and Larger), Dish Washing Powders, Hand Soap, Shampoo, Toilet paper



**November 4-5
Discovering
God's Call
Retreat
HAS BEEN
CANCELLED
DUE TO
LACK OF
ENROLLMENT**



Israel Trip

March 5-14, 2012



Deposit is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first serve basis. Reservations made after the airline seat reduction date of Dec. 1, 2011, are based upon availability. Final payment due by Feb. 1, 2012.

Staffing Changes in the Office

Cindy Alleman will be stepping in to fill the need of a Program Facilitator for our church. She will be helping support Adult Education and Family Life ministries. She will also be assisting in making the church's internal communication processes more effective. You can reach Cindy at her new office two days a week here at church. Please join the SPRC and the staff in welcoming her on board and speak a word of gratitude next time you see her.



My thoughts today have taken me back to a different time period. A time I've heard is "simpler". When the West was won, the victory was founded on the backs of the pioneers, men, women and children who set about the task of adventure, intrigue, law, perseverance, love, family, and the spirit of the "self-made" individual with the help of a Divine God. The time was indeed not, "simple". But it was simpler than the many distractions of our day. Our time is usually spent on things that occupy our attention without expanding our horizons, and our lives. We have lost the desire to "Boldly go where no man has gone before..." Although I'm not pointing any fingers, I am concerned that our upcoming generations have their eyes so entranced on the guise of social media and staying connected with the "world" that we have lost the art of communication, shaking hands and encouragement even though conflict will never be far from us. What to do? I'm no soothsayer, but I do have one suggestion. Focus. Now, I am among the first generation where scientist and doctors (discovered) Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. However, I find it more than interesting that those same kids today can sit for hours and focus on media of all sorts. So, I do not think that focus is a problem, but maybe what we focus on is the true issue.

I'm on the road traveling to California for classes. I will have two more sessions, one in February and my last in June. Then, the arduous task of completing my doctoral thesis. When I travel by car, I stay in KOA camps and usually sleep in my Prius. I know, you're thinking, "Is that boy crazy?!?" The answer is yes, kind of. But the reason I do it is because of the topic of my article...busyness. Busyness, is defined as the quality of being busy, lively but meaningless activity. I'm afraid that our culture has a "busyness" disease. We bombard our senses with so much technology, media, and addictions. However, there are other types of busyness that we fall victim to that disallow us to say, "That doesn't affect me", like, after school activities such as sports, soccer, volleyball, baseball, football, band, karate, and the list goes on. Now before you get all mad, I'm not making an indictment on these things. I am merely making a point that oftentimes, we are not just involved in one thing but four or five or more. Why? Why do we work so hard at keeping ourselves so doggone busy? I think the issue is, again, focus. What is our focus?

The bible has something to say about this and I think it might offer a good perspective for us. In his second letter to the Thessalonians Paul writes to this very subject. A common synonym for the word busyness is perseverance. But that word has a much different definition which is (diligence and hard work). A mere shift in our thinking could allow us to re-focus our busyness and turn it into perseverance. Listen to Paul's plea in 2 Thess. 3:1-5, "Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.

And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance." We will not find a new focus within ourselves, rather we will find it in Christ. Paul goes on to say that being busy is not the problem, but being a busybody is counterproductive and should be rectified in our hearts lest we fall victim to the evil one. Then we hear these words, "We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right (3:11:13). My dear church family, parents, youth, friends, fellow believers, we are called to never tire of doing what is right. In order to do that, we must examine our busyness. I remember an old saying that goes like this, "Nothing worth having comes easy", and that includes our faith, hope and love of the Christian life. Just remember that "the greatest of these is love" and I think our new challenge is to focus, re-focus and persevere as Christ perseveres in and with and through us each and every day.

Blessings,
Sean

Throughout the month of October, we are focusing on stewardship in Children's Church. Through lessons, games and crafts we are learning that everything we have is a gift from God, including our money, possessions, time, talents, bodies and the world around us. We are to care for these gifts and use them to benefit God and his people. As part of this effort, we are collecting money for Irving Cares. We do not usually collect an offering during Children's Church. However, this month children are being encouraged to bring an offering (in any amount) to Sunday School or Children's Church. Children are being urged to do extra chores to earn money that they can then donate to help feed hungry families in our city. We are also selling some leftover FUMC t-shirts for a \$2.00 donation to Irving Cares. These shirts can be found in the SonRise Village Hallway on Sunday mornings.

On Sunday, October 30, we will have a noisy offering in worship. The children will pass metal pie pan offering plates and invite the congregation to donate their change to Irving Cares. It will be a noisy offering and a blessing for people in need.

We are also encouraging the children and the entire church to donate new or gently used coats, jackets, sweaters and blankets for the Northgate UMC Clothes Closet. There is a collection box in the hall outside the office.

Thank you for your support!

Kelly

The logo for Children's Ministries features the words "CHILDREN'S" and "MINISTRIES" stacked vertically. The letters are colorful and stylized, with a star symbol replacing the letter 'S' in "CHILDREN'S".

ALL SAINTS DAY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6
10:30 AM WORSHIP



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Children's Director

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Director of Parent's Day Out

Barbara Canafax

Keri Moreno

Jessica Anderson

Administrative Staff

.... AMONG OUR PEOPLE AMONG OUR PEOPLE ...

HONORARIUMS: In honor of **Connie Riley's** birthday to Chapel Renewal Fund.

MEMORIALS: In memory of **Brian Smith**, son of Hans and Nancy Smith and grandson of Bill Clyatt to Wednesday Work Crew Endowment Fund from Dick and Jeanell Bischofhausen.

In memory of **Jewellene Barnett** to General Budget from Burley and Reiko Barnett. To Wednesday Work Crew from Jim and Phyllis Street.

In memory of **Davis H. Fischer** to Chapel Renewal Fund from Dee Norris.