



October 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are about to begin another exciting year at Collegiate, with many opportunities for learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Many of you are involved in these opportunities as well as the activities of our boards and committees. For that we are most appreciative and grateful. Giving time and talents is a key part of Christian Stewardship.

Every fall we focus on *financial* stewardship so that we can set goals for all our programs for the next year. Our stewardship theme is: Celebrating the Next 100 Years of Generosity. Our recent 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and our gratitude for God's blessings for that time is the basis for the theme.

Stewardship is a continual and multi-faceted practice. Scripture calls on us to be generous in all our dealings and with all our gifts and talents. Recognizing there are many organizations that do God's work in the world and that CPC is a part of that great calling, each of you must decide how to allocate your resources among those calls. Placing the Biblical call to tithe in that context, we invite you to prayerfully consider your answer to God's request specifically as it relates to Collegiate Presbyterian Church. We urge you set aside time to discuss and reflect upon your giving decision before finalizing it. With the departure of Pastor Whit Malone, CPC will face some unique opportunities and challenges as we move through this transitional period seeking a new pastor. Your generosity will help assure that our programs and our leadership remain strong in the coming year.

Attached are some thoughts to assist you as you consider your financial support of CPC's mission and outreach for next year. Also attached is a summary of the budget for 2012. An Estimate of Giving Card is enclosed which we ask you to bring to Consecration Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. That morning there will be a single service at 9:30 AM, immediately followed by a meal of celebration in the Social Hall. We hope you will attend this joint worship service and celebratory meal on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your support of the mission of Collegiate Presbyterian Church and of God's work throughout the world.

The Stewardship Committee

*Paul Volker, Paul Readhead, Sue Draper, Scott Draper, Miriam Patterson, Sedhalia Crase, Char Roach, Verne Tanner*

Attachments:

BUDGET SUMMARY

THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF GIVING

THE CHALLENGE OF STEPPING UP

PLEDGE CARD

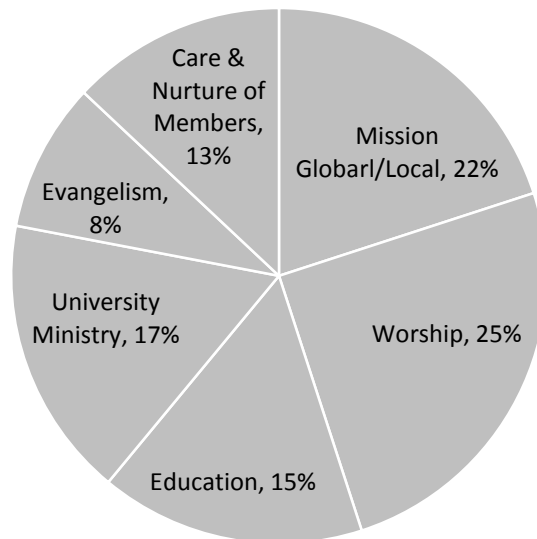
RSVP CARD

## Collegiate Presbyterian Church Estimated 2012 Spending Plan

Below is the estimated overview for the 2012 Spending Plan. (More details of the Plan are available at [www.cpcames.org](http://www.cpcames.org) and printed copies are available in the church office.)

Category	Account	2011 Budget	2012 Budget (Estimated)
Mission	Global	83,102	86,294
	Local	14,500	18,000
Programs	Christian Education	11,450	11,000
	Evangelism	4,500	4,500
	Nurture & Fellowship	12,700	2,900
	Stewardship	2,500	2,500
	University Ministry	8,000	8,000
	Worship & Music	15,550	15,875
	General Programs	1,025	1,025
Personnel	Pastors	182,768	246,825
	Program & Support Staff	245,820	168,999
	Pastoral Search	0	26,000
Operations	Office Supplies	18,950	18,950
	Debt Service & Insurance	27,994	28,494
	Building & Grounds	118,500	119,500
Total		747,359	758,862

- A. Mission giving reflects a 7% increase over 2011.
- B. 2011 included one-time funding for the Centennial Anniversary.
- C. Program and Support Staff changes reflect the re-assignment of Betsy Thompson & Jesse Larson's salaries from program staff to pastoral staff during this transitional period.



## Some Thoughts on the Spiritual Practice of Giving

For several years, CPC's pastors and stewardship committees have emphasized our need to give rather than the church's need for money. There are two main reasons for this emphasis. The first reason is our human tendency to devote ourselves to other gods, including money, rather than the one true God. Through giving we stretch our ability to trust God rather than earthly resources to provide for us. And the second reason, we need to give because God has been so generous with us. Giving of our resources is a concrete way of saying "Thank you" to God. Financial stewardship is not about the church's need to raise its budget; though the church does need to do that. Instead, Financial Stewardship is about our need to give in a way that our giving allows us to grow stronger and stronger in faith.

Our Judeo-Christian tradition has four deeply-embedded principles when it comes to giving in a way that helps us strengthen our faith. These principles are:

1. Giving regularly. Giving only when we feel generous or when we have extra money is not giving that strengthens faith.
2. Giving proportionally. Ask what percentage of your income is God calling you to give. The Biblical tradition is the tithe, or a minimum of ten percent. And ten is still a good number, but it is not magic. The reality is that some of us really cannot tithe, while others of us can give more than a tithe. Start somewhere. Figure out what percentage of your income you are giving now, and commit to step-up each year by one (or one-half) percent until you are tithing.
3. Giving as a matter of priority. The Bible teaches that the "first fruits" belong not to us, but to God. The idea behind the "estimate of giving" cards is two-fold. It gives our session a chance to plan programs, and it allows you to make your giving a priority at the beginning of the year. Giving as a matter of first priority is a key way of demonstrating our loyalty to God above all other gods.
4. Giving involves risk. Taking risks is an important component of growing in faith. The only thing we really have to offer God is our willingness to cast off in trust onto the deep ocean of God's love and mercy.
5. Giving needs the support of others. Regular, proportional, priority, and risky... this kind of giving is not easy. And it is especially not easy to do alone. We need the support of others who are giving as a spiritual practice. We need the encouragement of those who are also seeking to trust God enough to change their priorities.

## The Challenge of Stepping Up

On average, Presbyterians give two to three percent of their income to their church and charitable organizations. Tithing remains a goal that many of us need to work toward. With God's help and the encouragement of our Christian community, we all can commit to the spiritual practice of giving through incremental increases each year. Below is a chart which may prove helpful as you seek to grow spiritually by giving.

Annual Income	Approximate Weekly Commitment Proportionate to Income						
	15%	10%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%
100,000	288.00	192.00	135.00	115.00	96.00	77.00	58.00
75,000	216.00	144.00	100.00	87.00	72.00	58.00	43.00
60,000	173.00	115.00	80.00	69.00	58.00	46.00	35.00
50,000	144.00	96.00	67.00	58.00	48.00	38.00	29.00
45,000	130.00	87.00	61.00	52.00	43.00	35.00	26.00
40,000	115.00	77.00	54.00	46.00	38.00	31.00	23.00
35,000	101.00	67.00	47.00	40.00	34.00	27.00	20.00
30,000	87.00	58.00	40.00	35.00	29.00	23.00	17.00
25,000	72.00	48.00	34.00	29.00	24.00	19.00	14.00
20,000	58.00	38.00	27.00	23.00	19.00	15.00	12.00
15,000	43.00	29.00	20.00	17.00	14.00	12.00	9.00