



# OFFERING OUR BEST

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2009

## VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING for OFFERING OUR BEST STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



JOIN ONE OF THE CAMPAIGN TEAMS

Sunday, August 16  
10:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall

### Agenda

- Potluck brunch
- Campaign process
- Overview of the teams
- First team meeting

## Results of Stewardship Survey Are In

**“Prayer is the key to this campaign. We should ask each member to search their hearts and ask God’s help in leading them to Biblical stewardship.”** Comment from a Trinity member in the stewardship survey about the upcoming annual stewardship campaign

In late July and early August, Trinity conducted a stewardship survey to gather feedback to find what you are thinking about a variety of stewardship-related issues impacting Trinity. The results were tabulated by Church Development, a Kansas City-based stewardship training and church management firm. The infor-

mation we received was helpful, thought provoking, and in some cases, spiritually insightful!

The Stewardship Committee thanks each of you who took time to share your thoughts. We received 66 surveys with a tremendous amount of written comments. The Stewardship Committee is carefully reviewing the anonymous responses in an effort to improve the way stewardship is taught at Trinity and to help us secure the resources we need to effectively minister the gospel in Topeka.

Key findings from the survey:



- ➔ Support for asking Trinity members to give 5% of their income to the church was encouraging (46% supportive).
- ➔ Support for volunteering for the annual campaign was moderate (31% said they would volunteer).

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## From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

I want you to know I’m praying for you that you will be compelled to *offer your best*.



The best of what you may ask? As we prepare for this

year’s stewardship campaign, I’m praying for everyone at Trinity that we will offer the best of our time to serve the Lord, the best of our talents to work in ministry to build God’s Kingdom, and the best of our treasures to generously provide resources, so together we will “Glorify God, Share Christ’s Love and Make New Disciples” to meet the vision God is calling Trinity to fulfill.

This year our fall stewardship campaign is “Offering Our Best” (see article below for more information about the exciting events surrounding our campaign). Our Stewardship Committee is energized and motivated to encourage our church family to grow more deeply in our faith.

Continued on page 4

## Annual Stewardship Campaign Preparations Underway

*Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*  
2 Corinthians 9:7

Recently, our church's Stewardship Committee received a very encouraging comment: "Trinity is doing really well with stewardship education and training."

This comment from our consultants at Church Development is not the sort of thing churches hear every day. Church Development is a stewardship development firm based in Kansas City helping us with our annual stewardship campaign.

Having worked with over 200 churches nationwide, Church Development was quick to point out the many places where the leaders of Trinity have been successful at building a culture of generous giving (regular teaching about the importance of stewardship, holding annual stewardship campaigns, providing regular opportunities to serve, and showing how contributions to Trinity are making an impact for Jesus Christ).

So why utilize the services of a church consulting firm if we are doing so well? This is a fair question.

This fall at Trinity we will again hold an annual stewardship campaign to secure the resources we need to minister the good news of Jesus Christ in the coming

year and to give our members the chance to use their gifts and talents to serve in ministry. Our 2009 stewardship campaign will be called: *Offering Our Best*.

**This year, our goals and vision for the church are more challenging than in recent years. This is why we've enlisted the help of Church Development. To enable Trinity to achieve its most significant goal of adding an associate pastor, the Finance Committee anticipates that giving to Trinity must grow between 15 and 30%. That's a big jump, but we have a big God and a big calling to spread God's love in Topeka.**

The Stewardship Committee comprised of Pastor Shelley, chairperson Judy Messenger, Connie Hubbell, Stan McAdoo, Forrest Craig, and Bob Hachiya are working diligently to ensure that Trinity will be in a position to meet its ministry goals.

Therefore, to "offer our best" we are "pulling out the stops" to help Trinity grow in the area of stewardship. Nearly 60 families returned a stewardship survey. We are very grateful for each of you who took the time to share

your input with us. We want to build our plans based on the feedback we receive from you.

We will also offer you a number of engaging opportunities to join with us in our annual stewardship campaign by serving on a short-term campaign ministry team (see information on pages 1 and 3). To meet our ministry goals for 2010, we will all have to "Offer Our Best."

In the coming months there will be exciting events, service opportunities, and prayer initiatives to encourage you to give generously like Paul exhorted in 2 Corinthians 9:7.

We will keep you up to date on all the happenings of the stewardship campaign, and we look forward to working with you to meet the ministry goals for Trinity in 2010. Thank you for your generous support of the ministries of Trinity.

» *Thank You* «

...to our Campaign Ministry Team chairpersons:

Prayer—Bev Lutz

Events—TBA

Thanks—Rhonda Ross

Youth—Tamera Hampton

Ambassadors—Michael Langfitt

Communications—Kelly Hamilton

### MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

"I see nothing wrong with suggesting [people give] 5% or increasing [giving by] 1% from where you are. I would rather see us encouraged to give because we have been blessed and encouraged to give because we can make a difference with our giving. The step up model suits me better."

## Results of Stewardship Survey Are In Continued from page 1

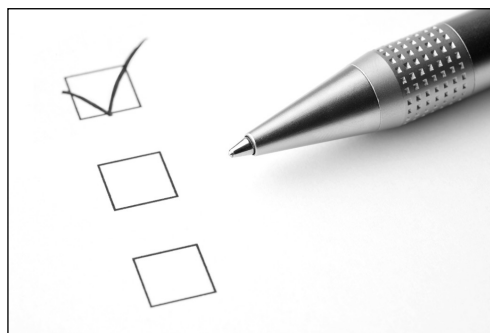
→ People at Trinity are very concerned about how the church funds will be used (62% of respondents said this is one of the top two pieces of information they need to determine whether they would support the mission of the church financially.

→ Nearly half (47%) of the families in the church are interested in planned giving options, may have interest, or have already remembered Trinity with a bequest in their estate plan/will.

It has been said: “Stewardship is everything you do after you say “yes” to Jesus.” Therefore, we know that living a life of biblical stewardship and giving generously to the

work of God’s Kingdom with our time, talents, *and* treasure is a key aspect of living a life of discipleship to Jesus Christ.

One clear result of the survey is that the people of Trinity want their donations to make an impact. Additionally, enhanced communication may be needed so that people can understand the complex and challenging task of allocating resources given to Trinity so that all the important aspects of ministry (worship, mission, spiritual development, administration, and leadership) can be



accomplished to honor God.

The survey opened the door for additional dialogue in this area, and the Stewardship Committee will strive to help Trinity use the resources we receive as wisely as possible. Please see the member comments received in the survey on pages 2, 3 and 4.

Thanks again for your input!

### MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

“I think they [people who are not giving] need to be inspired by the Holy Spirit. This hopefully will be achieved through prayer and sermons. I also think the congregation needs to be effectively educated on the reasons to tithe, and the reasons why their pledge is needed.”

## Please Join Us at the Volunteer Organization Meeting



Pastor Shelley and the Stewardship Committee personally invite you to join us at the all-church volunteer organization meeting for the “Offering Our Best” annual stewardship campaign. The meeting and potluck will be at 10:30 am August 16 in the Fellowship Hall.

pot luck, and then our consultant from Church Development who is helping us with the campaign will lead us in a special time of preparation and training to give you the opportunity to participate on a short-term ministry team supporting our fall stewardship.

This year’s stewardship campaign will be a bit different from those we’ve held in the past, so we are kicking it off with a special event. Brunch will be served at an all-church

There will be six teams from which to choose, each meeting two to four times from mid-August through October. The teams are Prayer, Events, Thanks, Youth, Ambassadors, and Communications. These short-term service opportunities are a great way to use your gifts and talents to serve God and your church.

For more information, please feel free to call Pastor Shelley (785-272-2620) or Judy Messenger (785-845-0032).

Matt Schoenfeld is our consultant from Church Development. You may reach him at [matt@church-development.com](mailto:matt@church-development.com)



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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**MEMBERS SPEAK  
OUT**

**“The more we  
support, the more  
we can help to  
accomplish.”**

**From the Pastor** *Continued from page 1*

Further, we will all be inspired to deepen our commitment to honor the Lord with our gifts and resources.

We have some significant challenges and opportunities before us. With God’s help, we are certain we can reach our most challenging goal of adding an associate pastor to our church family. However, we want your help and input as we set ministry priorities and determine our course.

This is why we recently invested in surveying our congregation to gather your valuable input. I want to thank each of you who took the time to



share your thoughts and comments with us. We value your feedback and will take it seriously.

To reach our goals for 2010, we know we will all have to continue our faith journey to grow in the grace of giving. Thank

you for partnering with us in ministry at Trinity so we can offer our best to God.

In Christ,

Pastor Shelley