

A “ONE BIG GIVE” Q & A

Q: What is “One Big Give”?

A: “One Big Give” is a year-end opportunity to respond to God’s huge gift to us in Jesus Christ, with one big gift of time, talent and funding needed to move the many ministries of PCHUM into 2011 on solid ground.



Q: In other years, we did a Christmas offering to fund a few mission projects that are important to us. Why this change... why now?

A: Important mission projects are in the “One Big Give” plan. But we are in an important moment in PCHUM history. The newest part of the building is now 15 years old and we have been deferring repairs and replacements because cash flow has been tight. In fact, we have been borrowing from capital reserve funds in order to make sure program ministries are funded. Moreover, staff changes, including the transfer of our Associate Pastor to Sunnyside, require us to make sure that we are on very solid financial ground before seeking a second pastor or other ministry staff. The \$65,000 challenge is reachable and will move our finances to a place where we have sufficient cash reserves to deal with cash flow challenges. Equally important, “One Big Give” seeks long and short term volunteer ministry commitments from PCHUM members and friends who believe in the ministries of Chapel Hill.

Q: Isn’t this just slipping another stewardship campaign into the middle of our July to June budget year?

A: No. Our annual stewardship campaign is a season of Lenten reflection in which we ask ourselves to consider committed giving throughout the year. The Estimate of Giving Card folks fill out in the Spring helps leaders plan the year. We approved a tight budget this year and cash flow has been challenging. “One Big Give” is a unique opportunity to return a significant Christmas gift to ensure that the ministries God has set before PCHUM continue uninterrupted.

Q: And if the congregation is not able to return that significant gift?

A: The Pastor and elected Leaders of PCHUM will need to take a hard look at our ability to fund the ministries we have grown accustomed to and the ministries that God has set before us in the Strategic Plan. Difficult decisions always need to be made in

ministry. PCHUM will survive, and God will continue to work in and through us to thrive, but it is likely that a dual-pastor configuration and ministry staff will need to be reconsidered.

Q: That sounds a bit threatening. Clarify, please.

A: Each of us is called to be a caregiver of all that God has given to us. The leaders of PCHUM cannot continue to plan programs, hire staff, and maintain the building when we are in a negative cash flow position. That is, we have had too many months when we have had to borrow from ourselves to make payroll or ministry shares. As of the end of November we are three-months behind in Ministry Shares (our fair share of mission done through The United Methodist Church)... some \$25,000.

Q: So, is this doable?

A: Yes, all of it. We have hands and hearts to connect in vital ministry both in the church and in the community. The \$65,000 represents less than 10% of the 2010-2011 general fund budget. Some of us are not in a position to give financially right now, but may be able to help with a mission or two. Others of us are seeing business recover and may be able to give a significant gift... and may want to do something “hands-on” in addition. Financially, we are talking less than \$100 per member and constituent. Huge for some. Simple for others. Paul said it best, “Let each of us give as able, according to the gifts God has given to us.”

Q: So what now?

A: First, please pray over this. Then consider what God is calling you to do to be a part of the ministry opportunities here at Chapel Hill. It is NOT all about money (though the questions have largely been financial)! On the brochure, in the narthex, on the website are a myriad of ways to give of your time and talents. One does not replace the other, though we are aware that not everyone will be able to give financially... most of us can find ways to give of time and talents. Finally, complete the tear off portion of the “One Big Give” brochure and joyfully bring your loving response to our loving God on December 12th.

Q: I think I misplaced the brochure...

A: Not a problem. There are extras in the Narthex-Lobby at church or go online to www.pchum.org/onebiggive to find resources to help, including a way to give financially online. Of course you can always call the office at 327-6643.