

STEWARDSHIP TIMES

Sunday, October 4, 2009

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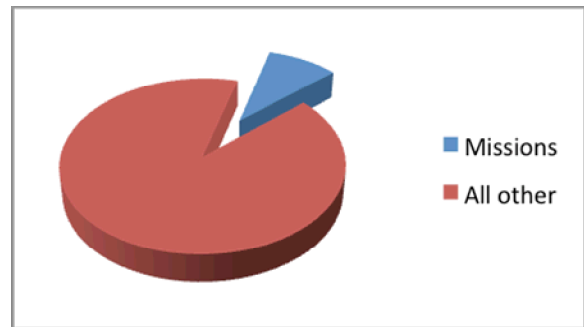
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOCUS ON MISSION

The section in the packet last week on the missions of the First Presbyterian Church showed what great things are happening at FPC thanks to the good works and generosity of our church family. There are so many wonderful charitable organizations we currently do not support. The Mission Committee of FPC would love to provide well-organized mission trips for our members and better support to those projects and groups we already support. Today only about 10% of our resources go to Mission – 5% in direct contributions, and another 5% in pastoral and administrative time, donations, and other activities. Our goal should be to fund our budget such that we could increase the 10% of annual budget to mission. What an impact we could make in the world!

Rita Brown
Co-Chairperson, Mission Committee
First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."
~ 1 John 3:17-18



EXPERIENCE THE JOY

Many in our faith family have experienced the joy and satisfaction of committing time and resources to helping the poor and less fortunate. The adage is true – you will get back ten-fold what you put into it.

Jeremy Sanderson
Associate Pastor
First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield

CHANGING LIVES

I've gone on two youth mission trips and been involved in many service projects. Those events, especially the mission trips, have shown me that our troubles are nothing compared to what some people experience every day, and that it is our duty to help them as much as we can. The mission trips change lives, and I hope that the church will continue to support those trips each year.

Meghan Keith
First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield



Ginny Ritchie has been a member and leader of First Presbyterian Church for many years. Often seen giving Minute For Mission talks (occasionally in costume), Ginny brings vitality, caring and commitment to her work in the church, in the true spirit of stewardship and faith.

2009 marks my 50th anniversary as a member of this congregation. As I look back over these fifty years I realize how very significant this church has been in shaping my life experiences. Worship and Bible studies have been the foundation of my faith journey. I have been inspired, awed, humbled and challenged as I strive to fully appreciate and accept God's grace, love and sacrifice for me. In addition, many of the programs and activities of the church in which I have participated have contributed to growing my faith. I've also enjoyed the fellowship and friendship of many people whose lives have made positive impacts on my life. For me, this church has been "A Home for My Heart."

I am especially interested in the mission outreach of our congregation. I believe that Jesus' life and teachings call us to reach out and touch others. First Presbyterian's ministry nurtures our faith and our understanding of the Biblical message, equipping us to respond to the needs of others.

Over the years our members have embraced many opportunities to demonstrate God's grace and love by supporting people and programs in many different places. My special passion is the CROP WALK which provides funds to help alleviate hunger and to provide resources for self-development.

These are difficult times for all of us. I believe that we must continue to strengthen our ministry to provide for our own spiritual well-being, and to enable us to support others. More than ever we are called to share the Gospel message in positive and practical ways. To do all this requires resources that our financial commitment will provide. In response to God's grace and love and with thanks for all our blessings my husband and I make our financial pledge a priority. Please join us in making your prayerful pledge to support our church's important ministry in the coming year.

Shalom,

Ginny Ritchie