



Building Our Stewardship Muscles

On Sunday, October 28th, we kicked off our Annual Stewardship Campaign. The introduction to the campaign was given by Bill Anderton in Sunday's worship service. Below is the transcript of his introduction.

"Today, Central Christian Church begins our Annual Stewardship Campaign.

As I began my tenure as President of the congregation, I set as one of the focuses of my office the improvement of the fiscal health of the church. Subsequently, we have set as a goal the total elimination of our annual budget deficit.

Central's traditional low-key approach to raising money for the support of church operations has resulted in our reliance on dipping into our reserves to pay our on-going operational expenses.

Unfortunately, this has become a bad habit.

Our deficit has never been very large and, fortunately, we have the reserves to dip into. However, this is not a sound practice for any institution and over time can weaken the financial health of the church.

Around the church, I have heard two presumptions about the church's finances. The first is that we are a very wealthy church and stewardship isn't all that important because we are richer than Croesus. The second is that we're broke and we will have to close our doors any day as the money runs out.

Neither opinion is correct. The truth lies somewhere between these extremes.

No, we're not rich but no, we're not broke either.

It is very true that we have fallen into the poor practice of invading our capital reserves to pay ordinary operational expenses. Left unchecked, yes, we will eventually run out of money. This is not eminent and won't happen for years.

However, now is the time to put this poor practice in check while we still have sufficient cash reserves.

Our deficit is not the result of spending too much. Due to the healthy amount of volunteerism present in the church, we operate on a very frugal budget.

The root of our deficit is that we simply don't raise enough money in Stewardship.

If we can increase our annual giving only a bit, we can operate the church from our current income and perhaps have on budget surplus to increase our reserves.

If we accomplish this simple task we can operate our beloved church indefinitely, well into the future.

The Diaspora of Times Square

My invitation to a reception to hear Sonia Gandhi speak was #0119. I was very thankful to my host for the invite to hear India's combination version of "Jacqueline Kennedy-Onassis" and "Hillary Clinton" of 1.1 billion people. Mrs. Gandhi is president of the Indian National Congress political party, and possibly the next Prime minister. Italian born, Catholic and widowed wife of former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, and daughter-in-law of former Prime minister Indira Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi was in NYC to address the United Nations the following day. This night she was speaking to around 2000 Americans of Indian decent, from the New York and New Jersey areas. I was one of the few from Texas.

It took us an hour to get through security at the Marriott Marquis, Times Square. No cell phones allowed. While in line we talked to many others waiting to get in. Almost all were business owners or worked in finance and tech field. Some had businesses in both India and the U.S. I wore the best suit I had brought, but still felt under dressed. Networking was going on fast and furious. As we waited another hour for the speaker, most conversations I eaves dropped on were about money and business. India is supposed to be the worlds largest Democracy, and I would guess, soon the worlds most networked capitalists. Several people told me business lobbyists would spend millions if they could actually meet with Mrs. Gandhi.

As Mrs. Gandhi spoke, she referred to her crowd as the "Diaspora" of India. People who may have left, but still have a loyalty and an invested interest in it's success. She covered topics as terrorism, human rights, and inclusion of all in coming prosperity of India. She touted her party as a coalition of Hindu's, Seiks, Muslims, Christian, and all castes, still seeking the vision of Mahatma Gandhi.

For an evening I had dropped in on a world I had not frequented much. It made me think about the changing face of America and the world. It made me wonder what Diaspora I was a member of? The Church?

Pastor Todd

For the next several weeks Todd will be writing about experiences from his week of Study in Manhattan.

Seeking Computers to for Classes in Our Computer Lab

Pastor Angelo Pavesio is planning some classes in our computer lab. We are looking for some computers to upgrade to Windows XP software for these classes. If you have a cast off computer that matches these specifications, contact the church office.

- PC with 200 MHz or higher processor
- Intel Pentium/Celeron family or AMD K6/Athlon/Duron family processor
- 128 MB RAM or higher
- 5 GB or larger hard disk
- Super VGA (800X600) or higher video adapter and monitor
- CD-ROM or DVD drive
- Keyboard and Microsoft Mouse

Mike's Kids

The banana boxes will soon be here! So start collecting items now that you can bring to help fill them. For those who don't know, Mike's Kids in an annual program that supports children who have been abandoned or forced out of their homeland to a new country. For years Central has supported Rev. Feliberto Pereira in this mission. Bring hope and joy to these children by bringing in new or gently used clothes and toys. The boxes should be here the week of November 5.

New Directories

It's about time for new directories, don't you think? To ensure that all your information is up-to-date and correct, I am putting a couple of directories in Fellowship Hall. When you come to worship this coming Sunday, please take a moment to check your listing for accuracy. Also, let me know if you want your cell phone number listed. **I will only list the cell phone numbers of those who have given me permission to do so.** You can also inform me of any changes by e-mailing me the new information.

Laura

Stewardship

(Continued from front page)

Last spring, we took the first step to better fiscal health with our Miracle Sunday.

You may not realize it, but this congregation reduced by half our entire operational deficit for the year on that single Sunday.

This year, I want to challenge all of us to take the next step and accomplish three things in this year's Stewardship Campaign:

First, let's all pledge enough to fully underwrite the ongoing expenses of the church for 2008 without needing to draw on reserve funds.

Second, let's raise enough money to financially support an aggressive outreach to our neighbors with the mission of inviting them to a life of faith in Jesus and into Central Christian Church to share the pursuit of Christian spirituality with us.

Third, let's finish 2007 with a sprint to the tape by erasing any remaining operating deficit for this year. If we all make a special gift to the church between now and Christmas, we can end the bad habit of spending reserves.

You will note that this is a similar approach that we used last spring by first making or increasing our pledges and, second, by making a special current gift to the church at the same time.

Today, our 2007 Annual Stewardship Campaign begins. Our target for Commitment Sunday is November 18th.

In this coming week, you will be receiving a letter and a pledge card.

Also, there will be additional information coming each Sunday between now and then as well as information in the newsletter and on the website.

This three-week approach is not very long for a Stewardship Campaign. We enter this critical period with the belief that you understand the importance of your financial support.

Please consider the church's need and the resources God has given you and make your decision in a prompt and faithful fashion.

Please consider your pledge carefully and prayerfully so you can be prepared to make your commitment on November 18th."

Live Hope Groups

Here is a list of the groups and where they meet. If you're not part of a group yet, why not visit one this week?

PRAYER

Meeting time: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 7:00—9:00 PM

Place: the home of Bill & Nancy Anderton

Study or Theme: Prayer

Contact: Russell Church (214.454.6984)

WOMEN'S PRAYER & SHARE

Meeting time: Every Wednesday, 10:00—11:30 AM

Place: the home of Grace Anne Crank

Study or Theme: Women of the Bible

Contact: Grace Anne Crank (972.523.6520)

PARENTING STUDY

Meeting time: Every Wednesday, 6:30 PM

Meets at church

Study of theme: parenting

Contact: Nichole Sukanuma (972.922.8868)

THE SAWDUST MAKERS

Meeting time: Every Thursday, 7:00—9:00 PM

Meets at the home of Jim Archer

Study or Theme: Christian fellowship & woodworking skill enhancement

Contact: Jim Archer (214.828.2222)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Meeting time: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 PM

Place: the home of Wendell & Suzie Patterson

Study or theme: The Lord's Prayer

Contact: B. J. Austin (817.307.7327)

Weekly Support Group, Band of Brothers and Sisters to Begin

Several members of Central Christian Church have banded together to begin a support group to help those with drug and alcohol addictions. Please call Jack Graham for more information. (Cell 214-914-2764) Join the Band.

Calendar

Wednesday, October 31

10:00 AM Women's Prayer & Share
 No Westside Workers this week
 6:00 PM Bells
 6:30 PM Parenting Group
 7:15 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, November 1

7:00 PM Sawdust Makers Group
 7:00 PM Marriage Prep Class

Sunday, November 4— Daylight Savings Time Ends

9:30 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Outdoor Worship Service
 11:00 AM Worship
 12:15 PM Coffee Fellowship

Monday, November 5

9:00 AM The Good News article deadline

Tuesday, November 6

10:30 AM Disciples Women Meeting
 7:00 PM Prayer Group

Wednesday, November 7

10:00 AM Women's Prayer & Share
 10:00 AM Westside Workers
 6:00 PM Bells
 6:30 PM Parenting Group
 7:15 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, November 8

7:00 PM Sawdust Makers Group
 7:00 PM Marriage Prep Class

Saturday, November 10

9:00 AM Elders' Meeting

Daylight Savings Time Ends November 4th

Remember to set your clocks BACK one hour.

Please Keep in Your Prayers this Week:

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| Libby Davis | Virginia Lee Rice |
| Trude Griffiths | (Ebby Acers' niece) |
| Catherine Mansen | Jerry Rodgers |
| | The People of Burma |

Our Heart-felt Sympathy

- Family and friends of Marianne Flanders who passed away on October 25. A memorial service will be held at Central on Saturday, November 3 at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.

November Fellowship Dinners

- Wednesday, November 14 at 6:00 PM; Speaker: Tatiana Adrosov, President and Executive Director of Thanksgiving Square.
- Commitment Sunday, November 18 at 12:15 PM
A Thanksgiving Celebration

TeleWorship

Worship together every Sunday, even if you can't be physically present. At 10:55 AM phone 1.866.844.6291 and enter the access code: 6371829.

The next issue of the Good News will be published on November 6 The deadline for articles is Monday, November 5.