Dear Church Family,

This year's stewardship theme is *If Not Us, Then Who? Taking a Leap to Faithful Stewardship*. We were inspired by the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). Jesus stresses to us that a talent is useless unless it is used. Although the safety and relative comfort of keeping things the way they have been can be desirable, it is not what we are called to do. We have been blessed this year with the completion of the successful "One and Done" effort to significantly reduce the building debt, the initiation of a summer Sunday School and FPCWeds midweek renewal, the painting of Donegal House and repointing of the chapel, and are blessed with an amazing church staff who inform, lead, and care for us.

It would be easy to rest and bury our talents in the ground, but we are called to take the leap to looking faithfully forward. We are planning for an expanded emphasis on youth ministry, the creation of a visual arts choir, a start on necessary repairs to our stained glass windows, and some new mission initiatives in caring for those in need.

In keeping with our theme, it is not someone else, but we who are challenged to provide for the needs of the church as we serve the Lord through this special community of faith. The following narrative budget breaks down our expenses according to four categories of ministry. The comments from members and friends gives evidence of the positive impacts of these ministries. Please pray about your pledge for 2015 and consider how the Lord will use your talents in his service.

Yours in Christ,
The Stewardship Team

Sara Gardner, Chair
Barry Carper
Mark Catlett
Bryan Corsnitz
Tara Holmes
Serving Locally and Beyond

$260,000 or 27% of the total budget was designated for mission in Winchester and beyond including WATTS, and Jubilee Kitchen.

“I wanted to thank the people of First Presbyterian for the help you showed me when I was in trouble. I came to Jubilee Kitchen and found not only food, but warmth and caring. You gave me support when I needed it. I’ve got my life together now, and just wanted to say ‘thanks.’”

“I love our serious commitment to serving Christ and neighbor in downtown Winchester and beyond – even when it’s not easy!”

Celebrating through Worship

$318,000 or 33% of the total budget was designated for worship services and music ministries.

“We love the music – from choir, handbells, singing kids, New Stone...it makes us feel the spirit of the Lord.”

“Our ministers are so helpful in assisting us in connecting with God and understanding the Bible.”
Caring for Members

$165,000 or 17% of the total budget was designated for pastoral care ministries such as weddings, funerals, hospital visitations, baptisms, and Stephen Ministry.

“We thank you for your many visits...you were always there in our time of great need and your visits brought much comfort to us and the family. First Presbyterian has given to our family spiritually and through friendships. It certainly feels like ‘home’ to us. Thanks for your kindness. It has meant more than you will ever know.”

“Although an introvert, I love FPC because I look forward to enjoying visits and chats with my church family every time I am here.”

“The fellowship of the entire church is like one huge family—it’s a beautiful thing... this church brings people together, closer to God...”

Growing in Faith

$222,000 or 23% of the total budget was designated for educational ministries including, children’s ministry programs, youth ministries and adult Sunday school classes.

“As a Vacation Bible School teacher, I had the great joy of a child explaining to me that she understood what Jesus had done for her on the cross. At the end of the Bible story lesson, she turned to me and said, “He did this...for me” with tears running down her cheeks.”

“There is a huge amount of activities for children and teens...my kids love coming to church!”
TAking the leap to faithful stewardship

How can I give of my time and talent?
*If you have not already participated in the Cyber Fair, pick up a copy of the 101 ways to serve in the information racks and take a look at the website (fpcwinc.org) for opportunities.
*Consider "Worship plus 2" as a goal. Worshipping weekly plus two additional hours of serving or learning.

How can I give of my treasure?
*Fill out the pledge card as a way of committing yourself to regular, systematic giving. Many people give proportionally of their income, tithing, or working toward a tithe.
*You may give an offering using weekly or monthly envelopes.
*An increasing number of families are using ACH, an automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account. Forms are included.
*You may donate stock directly through your broker. Please let the church know if you are doing that for proper record keeping.
*You may donate directly by credit card through our website on PayPal.
*The church welcomes a one-time special gift by cash or check.
*You might consider giving a memorial gift through a will or trust. Our booklet GiftIng, found in the information racks, explains opportunities more fully.

Please pray about your commitment to support the church and plan to return your pledge card by Consecration Sunday, November 9, 2014.

Thank you for your love and support for your church.