

## Renewal of Giving 2008-09

# God's Gift of Renewal to Us – Our Renewal of Giving to God

Over the next few weeks all members of Calvary will be encouraged to renew their financial giving. During our worship services we will hear testimony from individuals, with stories of the blessings that come through faithful stewardship. Everyone on Calvary's membership list will receive a mailing containing a number of items:

- A cover letter inviting us all to participate joyfully
- The booklet "What does the Bible say about Money & Giving?"
- A pledge card for your response
- An EFT form which enables automatic giving direct from your bank account

Many Christians wonder what the appropriate level of giving should be. The only benchmark offered to us in Scripture is the Tithe (or 10% of our income).

*Every time I tithe, I remind myself that God is on the throne. Not me. Not money.*

*Every time I tithe, I reinforce that all I have is from Him. The tithe is not a tip for good service, as though God were some helper I could patronize. He is the Owner, I am the steward.*

*Every time I tithe, I make a declaration; "I will trust You, God" – even when trusting doesn't feel easy or natural.*

*Every time I tithe, I am reminded, even as I calculate the amount of my check, of how much I've been given. I count my blessings, and in doing so, I put to death (or at least injure) the "More Monster" in me.*

(John Ortberg, *Giving, Unlocking the Heart of Good Stewardship*. Zondervan 2000)

Pledge cards are due in by Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> when an act of "Ingathering" will be part of our weekend services. May 11<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday - what an appropriate day to Renew our Giving to God as we celebrate His Gift of Renewal to Us.

Pastor Tim

## Finishing The Ministry Center

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- We are exploring the possibility of putting in a fenced playground outside the south end of the Great Hall. There are a number of issues that need to be taken into account, but wouldn't it be great to have a safe place for our youngest members to play during nice weather?
- Patio furniture for the outside balcony of the Ministry Center would be well used during coffee hour Sunday morning and would be a further enhancement to potential renters of the Great Hall and upstairs classrooms.
- The remodeling of the upstairs of the 1954 parish hall will provide two large, modern classrooms. We already need those rooms for our expanding youth and adult Christian education programs.
- The stained glass window over the altar in the Historic Church is in critical need of repair and restoration. Over half the funds needed have already

been given. It is important to act while the restoration expert is available.

We are putting together the cost of these priority projects and will take them on as funds become available. If you wish to help look into any of these projects or help with the fall campaign, please contact either Jill or Mike Powers or Ron Miller or Dixie Termin. These parishioners, along with John Wengrovius, form the fall campaign team and would welcome any and all assistance and input.

So far, parishioners have generously given nearly \$220,000 toward the completion of the Ministry Center. These funds were needed to meet the increased cost of the project due to inflation in the construction industry and a limited number of change orders. Thank you to the 45 households who have already given gifts small and great to this most recent effort.

Gifts to the Building Fund are greatly appreciated and will go toward the above mentioned projects unless otherwise designated.