



# First Presbyterian Church

seeking Christ. sharing His love.

September 26, 2013

Dear Friend,

Each Sunday Jim closes our worship with the same benediction:

Live Simply  
Love Generously  
Serve Faithfully  
Speak Truthfully  
Leave everything to the saving grace of Christ Jesus

Occasionally we might wish for something new, something more creative to conclude our worship; yet, what is more inclusive of the fullness of Christ's love and life than these now familiar words? The repetition of His love and presence is, and will remain, our greatest comfort.

Jim's benediction considers simplicity and generosity to be the foundation of the spiritual life. Both cause us to rely solely on the goodness and providence of our God.

The two really go hand-in-hand, don't they? Without a simple life we have neither the funds nor the time or emotional strength to live generously. Conversely, without a generous heart our lives seem to lose their compass bearing and become more and more complex and complicated, all in ways that create more pain than joy.

These two principles intersect in our financial lives. Perhaps this is why Jesus spoke more about money than nearly any other topic. It is also why our financial stewardship is close to the heart of the entire spiritual life. How we spend what Christ provides reveals what we really believe and in whom or what we really trust.

So what might all of this look like for you and your family? How might the presence of Christ here at FPC do something in you to help you cut away some of the confusion? A LIFE group, an educational offering, one of the multitudes of opportunities to plug in and serve those in need – each of these are important steps.

Likewise, how might you increasingly support these ministries with your tithes and offerings? All of this is in pursuit of that sweet spot of living a simply generous life.

Attached is a simple exercise you might want to try – a way to move forward in this call of simple generosity.



Our 2014 Stewardship Drive is aptly themed "Simple Generosity." On Sunday, October 6 at 12:15, I invite you to join me for the *Simple Generosity Luncheon* in First Hall. Please register at [www.fpcnorfolk.org/calendar/index.html](http://www.fpcnorfolk.org/calendar/index.html). At this luncheon, I will share with you my vision for our church in 2014 and the ways your commitment to live simply and love generously can impact our work not only within our church, but in our community and the world.

Commitment Sunday is October 27, 2013. Pledge cards will be mailed out October 21st. As you prepare your pledge amount, please remember that your commitment card is essential to our budget planning process. You can either mail your completed card to the church or bring your card to worship on Commitment Sunday.

We thank you in advance for your pursuit to live simply and love generously. Your stewardship committee and your pastors pray with you and for you as we all seek to move towards a life of simple generosity.

Blessings,

Your Stewardship Committee