

First United Methodist Church

Making Disciples ~ Making a Difference

“MAKING A DIFFERENCE” is our call to action, an expression of our faith and mission, and our desire that our lives will not have been lived in vain.

But surely these are more than cleverly crafted words, strung together as a tagline for church letterhead or for Facebook. They express who we are or at least who we are striving to become with God’s help. We are disciples in more than name only; we are united in our faith, we’re active in our outreach, and generous in sharing our gifts, our faith and our friendship. We are becoming Gospel-shaped people.

As the Gospel shapes us, we in turn shape our world by our choices and commitments. When we make worship a priority, when we give generously and serve joyfully, the Gospel comes alive in us and is compelling evidence of the Gospel difference.

Our emphasis in 2014 is for every member of *First United Methodist Church* to be shaped by the Gospel and to make a difference where they are. Enclosed you will find useful information for you to prayerfully consider each of these key areas and then decide how and where you could grow.

Worship Regularly – part-time relationships usually remain superficial. Pray about when, why and what causes you to skip worship. Then make a personal commitment to be more consistent.

Give Generously – Our Giving Challenge this year is to prayerfully consider boosting your yearly pledge by one level. This decision is both a personal recognition and response to God and is for your personal growth. The Financial Secretary will include this pledge amount on your future 2014 quarterly statements for comparison purposes only. You will also find a copy of your third quarter statement to determine your current giving level and a worksheet to calculate future giving opportunities. It is vital that you know what you’re currently giving, how often and why.

Many people are choosing the new electronic giving option the Church has created. You will find it is flexible, easy and safe. You decide how much, how often and when to start and stop payments. If you would like more information, simply check the appropriate box on the card.

Serve Joyfully – the happiest among us are those who have discovered within themselves the gift of serving others. The enclosed brochure “What is a Family” offers just a glimpse of the many people living out their faith at FUMC. You can make a real difference in people’s lives if you like people and have a willing heart. Request a list of ministry opportunities, make a choice that’s right for you and then get started and get involved. You’ll be glad you did!

“MAKING A DIFFERENCE” – it’s how we live, it’s our distinctive character and it’s our greatest strength. We’re very excited about the future and hope you are too! Join us by either mailing your pledge card directly to the church or present it at a special communion service on Dedication Sunday, November 3rd. As always, thank you for the

Blessings,

