



STEWARDSHIP & MISSIONS BOARD

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2014 Stewardship and Missions Board consisted of the following members: Cheryl Snow, Lynn Stroup, Holly Wilson, Lisa English, Mike Olthof, and Sue Cooper.

Over the past year, this board has encouraged support of the following missions:

March-One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) \$356

May-Blanket Sunday (CWS) \$427

October-Neighbors In Need (NIN) \$140

December-Christmas Fund (Formerly Veterans of the Cross...UCC) \$308

Christmas Eve-Crossroads Children's Home (UCC) \$520

This congregation has shown even greater generosity in funding the following:

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) (UCC) \$1815

Gideon's Bibles \$31

Food Pantry (on site) \$2117.76

Mission for Area People (MAP) \$200

Sunrise Service \$148 and Lenten Offering \$448 (this Board had designated that proceeds from both offerings be divided equally between the food pantry and the discretionary fund)

Besides monetary donations, our Church has been active in providing needed items to the three elementary schools in Fruitport. In early March, each school received a box containing numerous sweatpants, socks, hats and school supplies to fulfill emergency needs. In June, we collected enough items to complete twelve BABY KITS for CWS distribution!

One of the duties of this Board is to work on and approve the annual church budget; later to be voted upon by the Congregation. Operating expenses and 2.1% cost of living increases resulted in an overall total budget increase of 2.3% for 2015. But concern over the need to use monies from restricted accounts in order to pay our bills prompted much discussion and agreement (among other boards as well) that the congregation needs to become aware of it...especially with our Fall Stewardship Drive coming up. The October newsletter contained a letter explaining it to the Congregation...

The Stewardship Drive was changed significantly this year to a new theme...the LOVE CAN...which was about being willing to surrender our TIME, TALENTS, and TREASURES for HIM! Our objective was to call attention to the needs of our church; thus providing incentive for increased sharing of personal Time, Talents, and Treasures. Mission Moments, sermons, letters and discussions concerning Stewardship and Love for our Church followed.

Time and Talent sheets were rewritten to include more choices and eliminate outdated categories. Pledge cards were also changed...making it easier to designate choices.

On November 16th (Stewardship Sunday) we held a special collection and encouraged people to bring their envelopes forward during the offertory. It proved to be a solemn, yet stirring experience for most participants.

Final results ONCE AGAIN demonstrated this Congregation's LOVE for our Church!

Total Pledge Commitments to the General Fund increased to \$116,328; which represents 80% of our Total Budget for 2015! (Last year only 53% of our total budget was pledged!). \$2080 was pledged toward Missions, while \$120 was designated for the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF).

To our Congregation...our heartfelt Thanks!

The Stewardship and Missions Board
Lynn Stroup, Chairperson