

# Stewardship



# REPORT

The 2015 Stewardship and Missions Board consisted of the following members: Cheryl Snow, Lynn Stroup, Holly Wilson, Lisa English, Mike Olthof, and Sue Cooper.

Early in 2015, considerable time was spent reviewing missions and special collections supported during 2014. Recognizing that there is so much need in our own community, the Board was unanimous in agreeing to support LOCAL MISSIONS in 2015.

We started the year by collecting warm clothing items for Fruitport's elementary schools.

Our Lenten collection and Sunrise Service monies were distributed among our 18 "Be a Blessing" participants; their deeds and subsequent testimonials were inspirational.

May and June kicked off our collection for the BABY Pantry at LOVE, Inc. It took 3 trips to deliver all the items donated by this congregation!

During August we collected items again for the local schools...this time focusing on school supplies.

CROP WALK was our original choice as a September mission; however, the Board voted to not participate due to their (CROP committee) late planning and organizational problems.

We started promoting our "ANGEL TREE" in late October...We received over \$800 in gift cards to distribute among 9 children! Extra cash allowed us to assemble gift baskets providing hams, goodies and shopping vouchers for each family on our list!

The Christmas Eve collection of \$594 went directly to MAP (Mission for Area People).

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. While operating expenses showed a decrease of 0.11%, the 1.7% cost of living increases combined with the additional line item added for MAJOR CAPITAL REPLACEMENTS resulted in an overall total budget increase of 12.24% for 2016. Because the restricted fund has been ***paid back in full***, payments can now be diverted to this new line item!

The Stewardship Drive once again used the LOVE CAN theme...which is about being willing to surrender our TIME, TALENTS, and TREASURES for HIM! Mission Moments, letters and discussions concerning Stewardship and Love for our Church were used in promoting it.

On November 15<sup>th</sup> (Stewardship Sunday) we held a special collection and encouraged people to bring their envelopes forward during the offertory. Once again, it proved to be a solemn, yet stirring experience for most participants.

Pledge commitments for 2016 so far total \$111,709. This includes monies designated for the General Fund, Pantry, Capital improvement and Missions. This total is approximately 67% of our church's Total Budget for 2016...down from last year's 80%...but we need to remember that the budget for 2016 was increased by over 12%!

There is no arguing that final results, whether items collected or money donated, have ONCE AGAIN demonstrated this Congregation's LOVE for BOTH our Church and Community!

To our Congregation...our heartfelt Thanks!

The Stewardship and Missions Board  
Lynn Stroup, Chairperson