

With glad, &  
generous hearts



Dear Friends and Members of Covenant,

The Book of Acts describes how the earliest Christians worked to find their way after Jesus' death. Facing hardships and challenges we can only imagine how, the first disciples formed the early church to spread Jesus' message of grace and love. Despite their struggles, those early Christians felt the joy of their new community. Jesus' Gospel was vital and vibrant in their lives, and Acts records how they responded to their blessings:

Day by day, they spent much time together...with glad and generous hearts  
praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. Acts 2:46,47

Now, almost 2,000 years later, God's love still blesses our lives and Jesus' message is just as vital. But our community today faces different challenges that can tempt us to turn inward as we weather storms raging in the world. And when such uncertainty surrounds us, Covenant and its mission in the world are more important than ever - not only in our members' lives, but in the lives of so many others here in Madison and in Guatemala, Haiti, Cameroon, Sudan, and myriad other places where Covenant embraces God's gifts to us by sharing them with others.

As we begin a new stewardship campaign for Covenant's 2010 operating budget, we can consider the lives of Jesus' earliest followers. They met head on the risks and uncertainty that came with being 1<sup>st</sup> century Christians. Instead of turning inward, they faced the future with glad and generous hearts, praising God and spreading goodwill to all. That legacy of the earliest church can strengthen and grow in the days ahead through your generous pledges to support Covenant and its ministries.

You will hear more about the stewardship campaign in the coming weeks. A very special event in the campaign will be an all-congregation potluck dinner at 5:30pm on November 8 including a program on the musical history of Covenant. The stewardship campaign will culminate with Commitment Sunday on November 15 when members will offer their pledge cards during the service. These cards will be mailed to you later this month.

On behalf of the Stewardship Campaign Committee, thank you for helping ensure that the work of Jesus' first disciples will continue through Covenant Presbyterian Church and its service to all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

John Raihala, 2009 Stewardship Campaign Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Raihala". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "R".

2009 Stewardship Campaign Committee:

Rick Hardy, Basil Mundy, Doug Poland, John Raihala and John Wedberg