



St. Stephen United Methodist Church
www.ststephenumc.net
6800 Sardis Road
Charlotte, NC 28270
704-364-1824

April 21, 2009

Dear St. Stephen Family:

Sunday, April 26 is Stewardship Week Kickoff

We hope you will be with us as we celebrate our church unity and our spirit of stewardship. It will be a special day with a combined worship service at 10:30 a.m. including wonderful music and a special message from Rev. Tom Sigmon.

The worship service will be followed by the **Youth Missions Potato Bake** and our First Annual **"Food for the Soul" Ministry Fair** (see the enclosed flyer). This is sure to be a fun day for all!

On Sunday, May 3rd you will be called to respond to God with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness. In preparation, during Stewardship Week we are asking every member to take a few moments each day to pray for our church. The **enclosed prayer guide** is designed to lead you in prayer for our church and the many ministries that come together to create the special community of faith that we call St. Stephen United Methodist Church.

Also in this packet you will find a Stewardship Response sheet for each member of your family (children, youth and adults), as well as one financial response card. It is our goal that **every member responds** to Christ's call for stewardship.

God's church at St. Stephen UMC needs our financial pledges more than ever this year in order to continue impacting lives for Christ. If that is not possible, we still ask you for the commitment of your prayers, your presence, your service and your witness. We are strongly urging our adult members, if you have not already done so, to commit on your Response sheet to participate in the **MAGI program** (Methodists Applying Gifts Intentionally) during the next year. This program is designed to help you discover your spiritual gifts, identify your personal style, and realize the passion God has put in your heart for service. (More information is available at www.ststephenumc.net/MAGI.html)

Please note that if the adult members of your family would like to register their individual financial pledges rather than one combined pledge, additional financial response cards are available online at our website (www.ststephenumc.net) as well as at the church office. For the youth and children in your family who would like accountability for their financial response, we are including a financial response area on their Stewardship Response sheet.

Sunday, May 3 is Response Sunday

Please plan to be with us on Sunday, May 3rd. Our entire congregation, in all three services, will celebrate Holy Communion symbolizing our unity as members of the body of Christ. As you come to the communion table, we invite you to leave your Stewardship Response card and individual response sheets as an expression of your commitment to God and the many ways that lives are impacted through God's church at St. Stephen United Methodist.

Together we are **Reaching Up and Reaching Out** as Disciples of Christ!

Yours in Christ,

2009 Stewardship Committee
St. Stephen United Methodist Church