



January 16, 2009

### **Count Me In Campaign Update**

As the New Year begins, we would like to provide you an update on the progress of our 3-year *Count Me In* Campaign. First, let's look at a few of the specifics:

- |                                    |   |                           |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| • Total Pledges                    | 223 units                                   | \$1,445,551               |
| • Pledges Received as of 12/31/08  |   | \$ 508,847 (35.2%)        |
| • Non-Pledged Gifts as of 12/31/08 | 64 units                                    | <u>\$ 52,852</u>          |
| • Total Pledges / Gifts Received   |   | \$ 561,699                |
| • Our Goals in the Campaign:       |   |                           |
| > <b>New Roof - paid in full</b>   |   | <b>\$ 124,000</b>         |
| > <b>Loan Balance Reduction</b>    |   | <b>\$ 410,000</b> to date |
|                                    | ○ Current Loan Balance - \$1.545 million    |                           |
|                                    | ○ <b>Interest saving in 2008 - \$38,000</b> |                           |

On behalf of the entire *Count Me In* Campaign team, we would like to thank you for your prayers and gifts. Our "First Fruits" contributions were received December 16, 2007, which means we are a little over 1 year into our 3-year campaign, and total collections are on track.

In addition, many wonderful things have been happening at St. Stephen:

- Tom Sigmon has joined us as our Interim Senior Pastor and we have welcomed two wonderful new staff members, Rev. Tom Schnitzlein as Associate Pastor and Cindy Smith as Minister of Christian Education.
- We celebrated our church's 40th anniversary.
- We continue to support a vibrant pre-school.
- We have started two new adult Sunday school classes – one for parents of pre-school aged children, and one for young adults.
- We have started a revolutionary approach for Christian education of youth called "Discipleship Groups."
- We enjoy a growing United Methodist Youth Fellowship program, with over 150 members, and an active Sunday night program which fills the halls and rooms of our youth wing.
- Our mission outreach remains a hallmark of St. Stephen, supporting Habitat for Humanity, Appalachian Service Project, Youthworks, CROP Walk, Room in the Inn, Center of Hope, Men's Uptown Shelter and many others.
- Our Saints Alive! group, for our more life-experienced adults, meets monthly.
- We continue to "make disciples of Jesus Christ!"
- The list goes on!!!

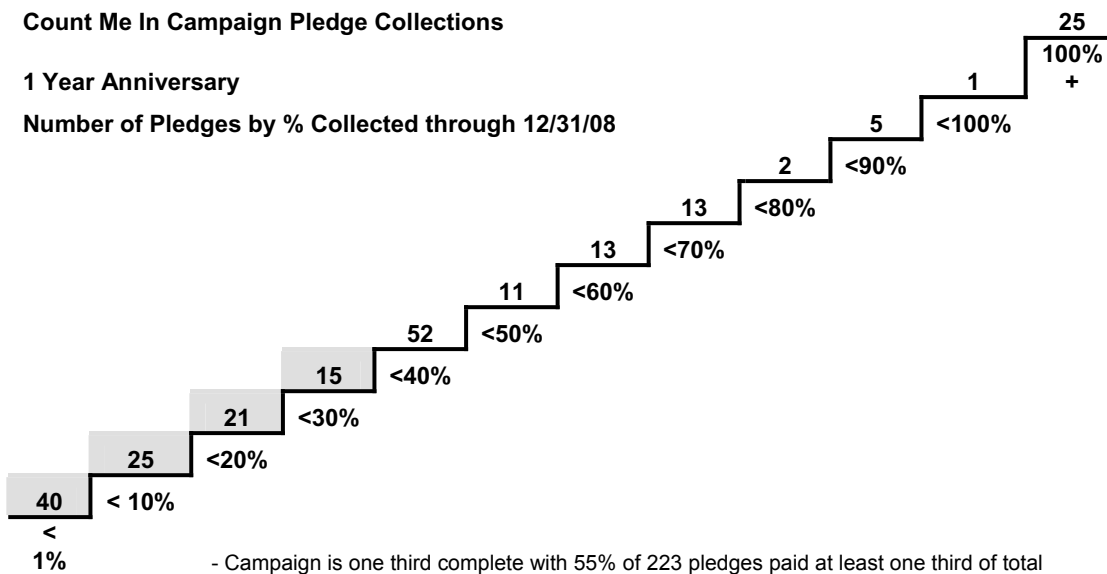
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*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*  
Joshua 24:15

This is truly a busy place with many dedicated members! So that we can continue to do all of these things and more, we also want to remind you of the importance of our Count Me In Campaign.

Although the “campaign” part of that effort has been over for some time, following through on our pledge commitments continues. As the chart below indicates:

- A number of our members have already given 100% of their pledge, for which we are extremely grateful!
- The majority of members are on track with their pledges.
- There are approximately 101 of our pledges that are less than 30% paid.



While our first year of the Campaign got off to a great start with First Fruits contributions, we need to continue our stewardship into the second year and hope we can count on your support.

We understand that members are funding *Count Me In* pledges at different intervals. We also recognize that the economy is presenting additional challenges to many of us. However, as highlighted during the Campaign, the sooner we contribute our pledges, the faster we pay down our loan, conserving our resources for programming needs rather than debt service. Thus, if you are able, please consider using this 1-year *Count Me In* anniversary as a reminder of your commitment and make a contribution soon.

In addition, if you have not yet pledged or made a non-pledged contribution, we invite you to do so (you can contact the church office or simply click on the *Count Me In* link on our church website).

Thanks again for being *Counted In*.

Presented to you in God’s Service,

Neal Brislin and Pat McCormick, CMI Follow-Up Team Leaders  
 Brian Barger and Bill Cornett, CMI Directors; Kathy Weaver, Campaign Coordinator