

Ripple Effect

Your Stewardship Committee has asked us to consider the image of a *ripple* in a pond. The picture of a pebble thrown, causes the water to form an ever-widening circle of movement outward from the center. We have no idea how wide that circle becomes. It might bang into another pebble, or another *ripple*. It might quietly expand and gain momentum as it approaches a swift moving creek. Or maybe several *ripples* might swell into a single, larger one, headed for a giant lake. The possibilities are endless.

If we apply such images to our financial gifts, it becomes a fascinating set of possibilities. Many in this Body of Christ have thrown the same size pebble into the financial pond every year. It may be a small pebble, it may be substantial. But because it's always the same size pebble, it produces the same size *ripple* each year. What would happen if that "pebble" were increased in size by only 1% of your pew-partner's income? Yes, that's what I asked. In other words, if someone else on your pew has given a set amount year after year, and that amount were increased, wouldn't it cause a bigger result? Wouldn't you benefit from the larger amount that they put into the plate? Wouldn't the mission possibilities increase if their 2016 pledge were increased by just 1%? Wouldn't that little *ripple* be appreciated, simply because the church could do perhaps a little more with the little 1% they added to their pledge?

Wonder if you could talk them into doing that. Oh, wait. That's the job of the Stewardship Committee. But, just for a second, didn't it seem easy for someone *else* to do? Funny, because they were just thinking how easy it would be for *you*.

Now, think about what could happen if God took that new pledge amount and multiplied it even further. What if that *ripple* caused by a new and slightly bigger pebble could meet up with other, slightly bigger pebbles, simultaneously causing ever-widening *ripples*? What if everyone on your pew increased their pebble size? What if everyone in the church did? Slightly, of course, but if *everyone* added to the pledge amount, God might be so impressed, and so willing to believe in the possibilities at FPC Henderson, that we could be the beginning of a tidal wave! Just think: your pew-partner's increase, added to your increase, added to all the people who sit on your side of the church's increase, added to the *entire* church's increase, added to God's multiplication..... wow. And your pebble might be the first one in the pool. It would be the pebble that begins all that momentum. It could be the beginning of something that FPC Henderson has not ever seen before.

Your Stewardship Committee has asked me to ask you if you'll pray over your 2016 pledge. I'm going a little further, and I'm asking you to pray over not only your 2016 pledge, but also the pledge of anyone and everyone with whom you share a pew. We can pray for others, to give others the momentum to increase. And, if you're feeling a *nudge* to do the same, perhaps they're praying for you.

How wonderful. Family members praying for one another. I like it.

I'll pray for your pledge, too.

Candice

*They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.*

— Psalm 1:3