

*Due to Computer Problems here is Pastor Jeff's Entire Pastor's Report From the Newsletter*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Centenary United Methodist Church has come to one of those proverbial “forks in the road” in the history of its ministry to make disciples of Jesus Christ. CUMC have grown in attendance, membership, ministry programs and leadership which had all led to an increase in budget...yet it has not resulted in any substantial growth in giving. To put it plainly, there is not enough financial support to continue to grow as a church.

This is why, as you can see on the front page of this newsletter, the church leadership has decided to dedicate the worship services on the weekend of November 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> to explaining the budget and the responsibility of the paying of apportionments and the importance of Christian Stewardship at CUMC.

In addition, on November 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a “Thanksgiving Day of Prayer for Stewardship”. People will be asked to volunteer to come in to pray and ask God to bless our church and inspire the folks of Centenary UMC to make an offering to help cover the remainder of our expenses and apportionments for 2014 as well as make a pledge of financial support for 2015 that day.

The United Methodist Church is a connectional system. The apportionments paid by CUMC are our share of covering of the cost for all the financial, legal and logistical support provided by the Wisconsin Conference to support the ministry of all the United Methodist churches in Wisconsin as well as some specialized ministries here and abroad.

The payment of these apportionments and the covering of our budget for 2014 will ensure that we can continue with the pastoral support, staff and resources needed to continue to grow as the Body of Christ here in Shullsburg, WI. This is a unique opportunity in the history of Centenary UMC as well as not only the chance of a lifetime, but the chance of an eternity to invest in the eternal souls of our brothers and sisters in Christ through your Stewardship and direct financial support of Centenary UMC.

In Christ,

PJ