



February 1, 2017

It has been another fantastic year at Shady Grove UMC. **Thank you for your contributions in helping our community of faith know and grow in Christ.** Your financial gifts to our **operating fund** support our ministries including worship, music, pastoral care, missions, evangelism and programming for children, youth, and adults.

Our congregation continues to do vital work inside and outside of our church walls. This effort has included sending over 130 youth on week-long mission trips; adult mission work in West Virginia; two day mission event for 23 children; expanding the outreach of our Caring Clothes Closet; welcoming The Sophie House onto our campus; and embarking on an exciting building campaign, just to name a few.

Inside and outside our church walls, our congregation is **CHANGING LIVES** - our 2017 Stewardship campaign theme. The entire congregation will be exploring ways in which we can mature, respond, persevere, and surrender to God's call.

In order to become better stewards of our congregation's future, this year we need your help with **growing our pledges.**

Although costs continue to rise each year, we have maintained an operating budget of just under \$1 million for the last nine years. The finance committee, church staff, and church council have trimmed as much as possible from expenses without negatively impacting or eliminating vital programs.

In order to break even with our projected budget, our giving needs to increase by 7%. To be truly sustainable, however, we need to **go further** by investing in the ministries that help define us as a congregation.

To help us, we are asking you to consider one of two requests:

1. If you have never pledged, please turn in a pledge this year. This will allow us to plan properly for the year ahead.
2. If you are already pledging, please consider increasing your annual giving to our operating fund. Even a small increase will help us continue the mission of our church

Stewardship Sunday is February 12. I hope you can join the Shady Grove community of faith as we bring our commitments for fiscal year 2017 to the altar of God. We will have special music, video highlights, and free HeBrews at each service as we celebrate CHANGING LIVES.

God has blessed us in so many ways and I am so proud to be part of the many wonderful ministries at Shady Grove that glorify His name. I ask you to consider prayerfully what *you can* financially give to our church. Please fill out the enclosed pledge card in support of our operating budget that runs April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 and **join us on February 12 to celebrate the sharing of our gifts.**

Yours in Christ,

Lindo Gharib, Stewardship Chair

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