

St. Matthews United Methodist Church

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Pledge for Roof Repair and Maintenance

In 2 Kings 22 and 2 Chronicles 34, we have the story of King Josiah. In the years before his reign, the temple had fallen into disrepair because the people had strayed into self-serving idol worship. In the eighth year of King Josiah's reign at the age of 16 "he began to seek God." Ten years later, after he had become mature in his faith, he commanded that the temple be repaired to restore it to its former glory. To fund this endeavor, he used the temple tax and the freewill offerings of the people. Both of these sources of temple income were above the annual tithe required of each believer. During the course of restoring the temple, "the priest found the book of the law of the Lord given through Moses" and this event brought about a great revival among the people. The people were greatly blessed during the reign of King Josiah and he was characterized as one who "did what was right in the eyes of the Lord." Those that love the Lord also love His house and those who are mature in the faith desire to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord.

Anyone who has attended St. Matthew's within the last few months should have been aware of the sad state of our roof. After each storm we have found more shingles lying on the ground around the sanctuary. We have seen water dripping onto the pews during thunderstorms and if you were an Early Bird and popped into the sanctuary before Barry and Pam arrived, you saw a big plastic sheet covering the sound system and organ to protect them. We have seen the wet floor sign at the breeze way entrance and water wrapping around the fascia boards as rain ran off the Education Wing roof. Our church like the temple during King Josiah's time had fallen into disrepair.

St. Matthew's has been blessed in that we have had no major unfunded capital expenditures since the retirement of our mortgage. However, our long neglected roof required immediate replacement to prevent serious damage to the church structure. The Administrative Council authorized the Trustees to borrow up to \$100,000 to fund the roof replacement and related maintenance. On 30 April 2008, the church secured a loan of \$71,000 to fund the repair. We hope to pay off this loan within three years to avoid an unnecessary accumulation of interest on the loan. By the time you receive this letter, the majority of the roof repair and related maintenance should have been completed. Now let us as brothers and sisters in Christ look for His blessings, like the people of King Josiah's time, as we retire this loan.

The Finance Committee has designed a pledge campaign that recognizes the wide range of financial means that exist in our congregation. Enclosed you will find a pledge card with the details. We have established a 3 tiered goal with other options. If you select a Bronze, Silver, or Gold level of giving, once your pledge is fulfilled, an engraved tag will be affixed to a plaque hanging in the church breeze way. The plaque is meant to serve several purposes: to honor or remember our loved ones, to dedicate our pledged gifts to the Lord, and to serve as a record of our faithfulness as an encouragement to the next generation. Once all of the Bronze, Silver and Gold pledges are fulfilled, if space remains on the plaque, names of those who have made significant contributions to the pledge campaign may be added. Watch as dedication tags are added to the plaque as we move toward our goal of retiring the loan.

Bronze, Silver, and Gold are important symbolic metals appearing in the Bible and used in construction of the tabernacle and later in construction of the temple.

1. Bronze is symbolic of Judgment. Bronze was one of the few metals that could withstand fire. The sacrificial altar in the tabernacle courtyard was made of bronze. Here sacrifices were made to make atonement for sin. The wash basin between the sacrificial altar and the tabernacle tent was made of bronze. The source of bronze for this wash basin was the polished brass mirrors of the Israelite women. They gave up their vanity that others may be cleansed. Also, Moses placed a bronze serpent on a pole (symbolic of Christ on the cross) that the people may look to that and live when bit by serpents in the wilderness.

2. Silver is symbolic of Blood. The whole of the tabernacle sat upon sockets of silver as our faith rests upon the Blood of Christ. The Bible uses the smelting of silver as a metaphor for the purification of people's heart through trials. Christ was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, blood money.

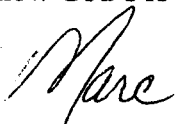
3. Gold is symbolic of Kingship. All of the items in the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies of the tabernacle and temple were either made of solid gold or covered with gold, the lamp stand, the showbread table and the altar of incense, etc. The lid of the Arch of the Covenant, aka the Mercy Seat, where the Glory of the Lord resided in the Holy of Holies was made of solid gold. Once a year the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies to sprinkle blood on the Mercy Seat to make atonement for the sins of the nation.

Be in prayer while considering your pledge. Know that your pledge is intended to be in addition to your tithe or in addition to the amount you have previously determined to give toward the church budget.

If you are able and the Lord leads you, please select one of these 3 levels of giving that we may be able to quickly reach our goal of retiring the loan. If you are financially unable to select one of these levels, know that God makes provisions for those who are less financially capable. Even Mary and Joseph could not afford to offer the lamb required by law for purification (Lev 12:6-8) and instead offered two young birds (Luke 2:22-24) but they still made an offering. Therefore, pledge accordingly.

Return your pledge card as soon as possible. Bring it by the church office, put it in the mail, bring it to worship and place it in the offering plate. Thank you for continuing to support St. Matthews.

Know God's love and the joy of sharing his love with others


Pastor


Council Chair

Pledging Scenarios

Scenario # 1

Type	# of Givers	Amount	Total
Bronze	7	\$1,560	\$10,920
Silver	5	\$2,340	\$11,700
Gold	3	\$3,900	\$11,700
OneTime	20	\$50	\$1,000
Alternate	20	\$200	\$4,000
TOTAL			\$39,320

Scenario # 4

Type	# of Givers	Amount	Total
Bronze	10	\$1,560	\$15,600
Silver	8	\$2,340	\$18,720
Gold	6	\$3,900	\$23,400
OneTime	20	\$50	\$1,000
Alternate	20	\$200	\$4,000
TOTAL			\$62,720

Scenario # 2

Type	# of Givers	Amount	Total
Bronze	8	\$1,560	\$12,480
Silver	6	\$2,340	\$14,040
Gold	4	\$3,900	\$15,600
OneTime	20	\$50	\$1,000
Alternate	20	\$200	\$4,000
TOTAL			\$47,120

Scenario # 5

Type	# of Givers	Amount	Total
Bronze	11	\$1,560	\$17,160
Silver	9	\$2,340	\$21,060
Gold	7	\$3,900	\$27,300
OneTime	20	\$50	\$1,000
Alternate	20	\$200	\$4,000
TOTAL			\$70,520

Scenario # 3

Type	# of Givers	Amount	Total
Bronze	9	\$1,560	\$14,040
Silver	7	\$2,340	\$16,380
Gold	5	\$3,900	\$19,500
OneTime	20	\$50	\$1,000
Alternate	20	\$200	\$4,000
TOTAL			\$54,920

Scenario # 6

Type	# of Givers	Amount	Total
Bronze	12	\$1,560	\$18,720
Silver	10	\$2,340	\$23,400
Gold	8	\$3,900	\$31,200
OneTime	20	\$50	\$1,000
Alternate	20	\$200	\$4,000
TOTAL			\$78,320

3 Year Pledge for Roof Repair & Maintenance

I / We, _____ (NAME) pledge the below amount toward paying off the debt for roof repair and other maintenance of St. Matthew's UMC. My pledge will be fulfilled not later than July 1st, 2011. (Please select one of the below choices.)

- (mark one item) [] Bronze - \$10 per week x 52 = \$520 per year x 3 years for a total of: **\$1560**
 [] Silver - \$15 per week x 52 = \$780 per year x 3 years for a total of: **\$2340**
 [] Gold - \$25 per week x 52 = \$1300 per year x 3 years for a total of: **\$3900**
 [] I pledge a one time gift of \$_____
 [] I pledge a weekly/monthly/yearly gift of \$_____ for a 3 year total of: \$_____

----- (CUT HERE) -----

----- (CUT HERE) -----

My Copy of 3 Year Pledge for Roof Repair & Maintenance

I / We, _____ (NAME) pledge the below amount toward paying off the debt for roof repair and other maintenance of St. Matthew's UMC. My pledge will be fulfilled not later than July 1st, 2011. (Please select one of the below choices.)

- (mark one item) [] Bronze - \$10 per week x 52 = \$520 per year x 3 years for a total of: **\$1560**
 [] Silver - \$15 per week x 52 = \$780 per year x 3 years for a total of: **\$2340**
 [] Gold - \$25 per week x 52 = \$1300 per year x 3 years for a total of: **\$3900**
 [] I pledge a one time gift of \$_____
 [] I pledge a weekly/monthly/yearly gift of \$_____ for a 3 year total of: \$_____

----- (CUT HERE) -----

----- (CUT HERE) -----

Upon fulfillment of your Bronze, Silver or Gold pledge, complete this portion of your pledge card and place in the offering plate in order that the plaque dedication tag can be engraved.

I / We, _____ have fulfilled my/our pledge and request that a dedication tag be engraved:

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: **Bronze / Silver / Gold**

Examples:

In Memory of John D. Doe
by John & Jane Smith

In Honor of Dr. Samuel D. Doe
by John & Jane Jones

Dedicated by the Family of
John & Jane Williams

** Bronze **

** Silver **

** Gold **