2020 Stewardship Letter

Christ is the cornerstone … and in him the whole building is held together.
—Ephesians 2:20-21

Dear Members and Friends of Old Pine,

Sunday, November 17 is our congregation’s Consecration Sunday. This is the day we all make our annual pledges to Old Pine. We urge you to plan now to attend the two important events of this day: Sunday morning worship and the Celebration Luncheon immediately following worship in the Community Center gym. This is a catered meal, not a potluck, paid for by the church.

We ask that you make every effort to attend church on Nov. 17. We will not give out or ask for pledge cards before this date. During worship on Nov. 17, each of us will come forward and place our pledge cards in a common bowl. Then, we’ll enjoy a meal together to celebrate the life of our community.

Over the coming weeks, you’ll be hearing stories about how Old Pine is making a difference inside and outside the walls of our church building. We’d like to start in this letter by giving a brief overview of the highlights of the past year.

2019: A Recap

This year has been a joyous time of growth and investment. We’ve expanded our core staff to include Lani Cole, our new church administrator, and Savannah Garrison, who joins Hannah on our Sunday School staff. This fall also marks a year since we called Pastor Rebecca Blake to be our Pastor of Christian Education. Rebecca has already made an enormous difference in the areas of children’s ministry and adult education, not to mention her strong presence in our worship services.

Another focus this year has been investing in our church building. We started the silent phase of a major capital campaign with the ambitious goal of $1.2 million. To date, we’ve raised approximately $750,000. In January we’ll begin the public phase of the campaign, which will include a campaign film and architectural renderings of the spaces to be renovated.
Meanwhile, we’ve been hard at work putting these generous gifts to use. We installed new energy efficient air-conditioning in the sanctuary; we restored a section of our extraordinary 1830s cast iron fence; we designed and installed three new historical markers telling the story of Rev. George Duffield; and we purchased new hymnals for our worship services.

This year has been filled with many wonderful joys. We baptized four infants: Ryan Jankowski, Adam Kovatis, Vincent Ferrigno, and Anika Hohag. Our nursery and Sunday School classes are bustling with life!

There were also profound losses, including the deaths of Ron Shaffer and David Glancey. Their memorial services were crowded with people from around the city who came to remember them and pay their respects. It was a reminder of how vitally important it is to have a church community where we are known and loved.

We feel so grateful to be part of our special community, which includes YOU! Thank you for making Old Pine your spiritual home and for supporting our congregation with your pledge on November 17.

In Christ,

The Stewardship Committee:
Mark McClurg (chair), Pastor Jason Ferris, Boston Gordon, Jen Hall, and Megan Steelman