

NOTES AND QUOTES

The following members and friends have shared how God has blessed them through the fellowship and ministries of Fairfax United Methodist Church.

I have been a life-long member of this church. I grew up here. I remember my mother teaching Sunday School, I was married here, my children were baptized here, I taught Sunday School here. As the trials and tribulations of life happened, each time I was in a Disciple class and had many believers praying for and helping me through life's troubles, like my Dad getting sick and dying, a divorce, and the troubled teen years. My faith has grown, my friendships in the church have multiplied and a small group Bible study is still my mainstay and support. YOUR faith can only grow in an atmosphere of faith that this church has provided for me and for others. God bless FUMC.



Andrea Reid Moreland Blakemore,
member for 37 years

In a world where each day brings a host of trials and tribulations, I find this church to be a place of calm, comfort, and joy. And it's not the building ... it's the people within. I have continued to become more and more involved with the church because the more I give of myself, the more I get in return. The capital campaign for me means investing in the future of FUMC."

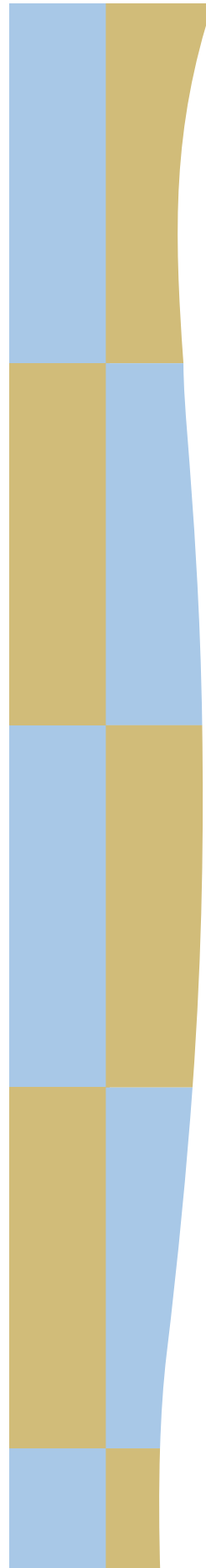


Sharron Jones, *member for 6 years*

When my late husband was dying of cancer, my Christian Encounters Sunday School class offered to bring hot meals to our home once a week. At first, I said I could do the cooking, but they persisted saying it would make "them" feel better. So, I relented and accepted the meals gratefully. What they really gave me was one more precious hour a week to spend with my husband. I was truly blessed.



Karla Martin Curran, *member for 24 years*

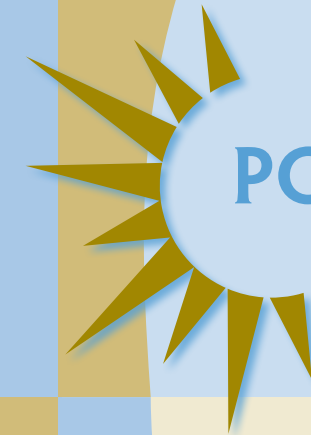


2008 Capital Campaign

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Fairfax United Methodist Church



POWER UP *for God's Possibilities*

JUNE 1: COMMITMENT SUNDAY

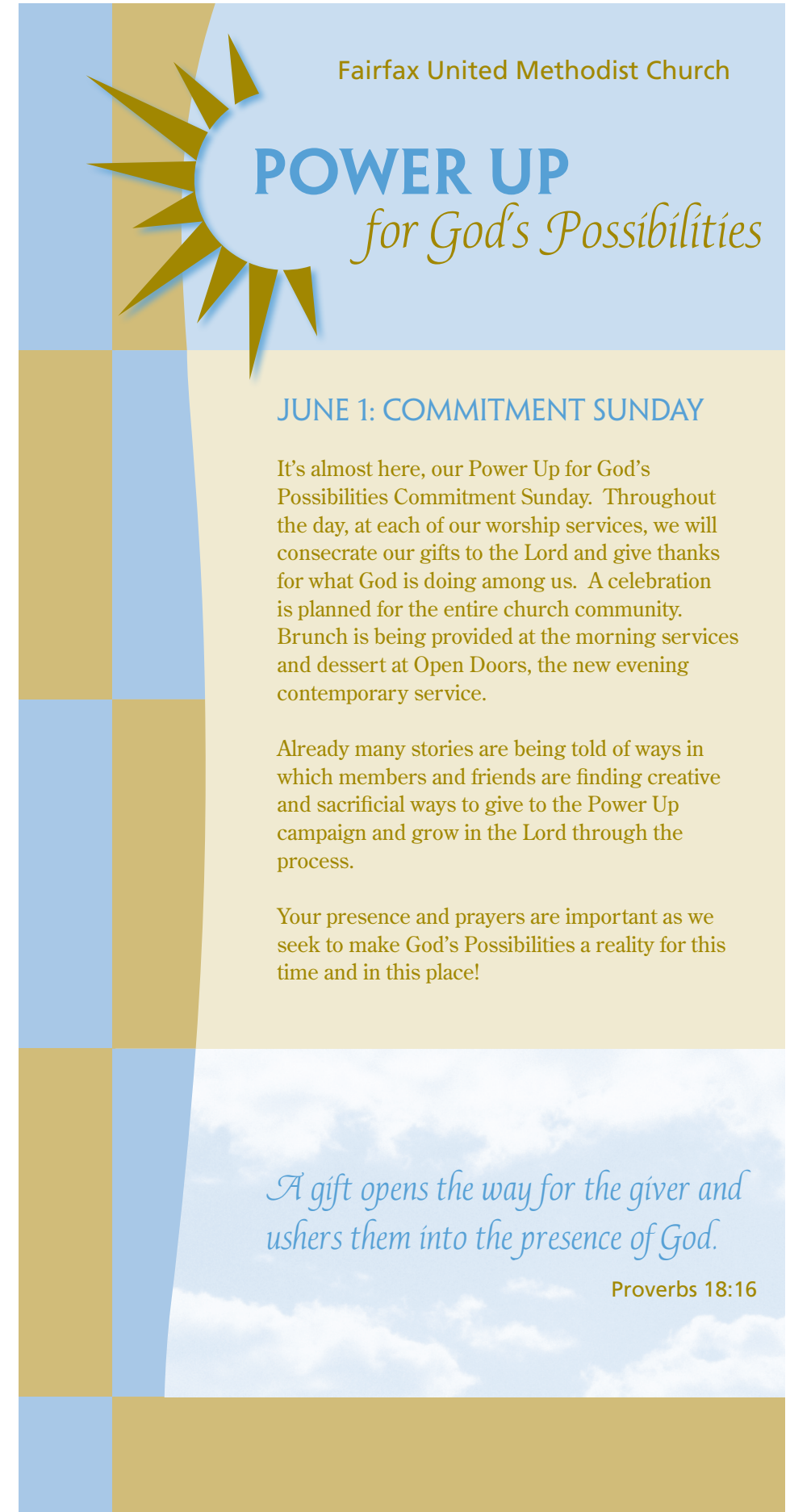
It's almost here, our Power Up for God's Possibilities Commitment Sunday. Throughout the day, at each of our worship services, we will consecrate our gifts to the Lord and give thanks for what God is doing among us. A celebration is planned for the entire church community. Brunch is being provided at the morning services and dessert at Open Doors, the new evening contemporary service.

Already many stories are being told of ways in which members and friends are finding creative and sacrificial ways to give to the Power Up campaign and grow in the Lord through the process.

Your presence and prayers are important as we seek to make God's Possibilities a reality for this time and in this place!

A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers them into the presence of God.

Proverbs 18:16



If Not Now, When?

Betsy Draper

When approached by Pastor Bray to lead the Capital Campaign, a number of challenges came to my mind. I wondered if Marty and I were the right people for this job. After all, we're new members here at Fairfax United Methodist and new to the area. We are just getting to know people, just learning how life works in Northern Virginia. And, given the present state of the economy, the timing on such a campaign seems dubious. But then I think, "If not now, when?"

Don't get me wrong! This church is a busy place every day of the week. We have wonderful outreach activities such as the pre-school, ESL classes, exercise classes, scouting and the list goes on. There are also church events that go beyond worship and Sunday school. Our facilities experience a lot of wear and tear. When you look around, you notice the cracked walls, peeling paint, and worn carpet. But we've been getting by so far. And then I think, "If not now, when?"

A church is more than just facilities! We joined Fairfax United Methodist not just because of the existing programming, but also the planning for the future. When I read through the Long-Range Plan, I knew this congregation was a loving community of Christians who shared my sense of spirituality and service. I also recognized that a lot of hard work was ahead, requiring efforts of many to make that Plan reality. I felt I could do my part to help. It would really just take a little while longer until I would be ready to roll up my sleeves and help. But then I thought, "If not now, when?"

Everything takes time and money! Like so many of you I'm busy with work and family obligations. My heart rate and blood pressure increase when I think about our recent home purchase and the dropping value, continually rising college costs, and increasing gas and food prices. It would be easier to give to a Capital Campaign if I knew my financial situation was more secure. But then I think, "If not now, when?"

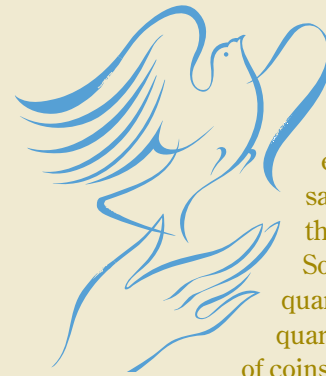
In his book, "Journey to the Center of the Faith," author James Harnish asks us to think about stewardship and giving if we believe everything comes from God:

... the question that confronts us is not *How much of what I own will I give to God?* The question becomes *How much of what God owns will I keep for myself?* The question is not *How much of what I own will I allow to be used for God's purpose?* The question is *How much of what I have in my care will I dare to use for anything less than those things that are in accord with God's will and God's purpose in my life?*

When I read his words, I think, "If not now, when?" So, I've agreed to co-chair the Capital Campaign with my husband, Marty. We've had many discussions about giving, not only of our time, but of our financial

resources. We've prayed, individually and together, to discern what sacrificial giving means to us and for us, recognizing that all we have is due to the blessings of God.

I believe in the Holy Spirit! I believe the Holy Spirit guides us, teaches us, counsels us, and challenges us. And I believe the Holy Spirit is that quiet, gentle voice that asks, "If not now, when?" The time is "now." This is the "when" we've been waiting for. What an exciting challenge God has placed before us. We are, as God told Abraham so long ago, blessed to be a blessing.



Sacrificial Giving — A Mixture of Coins

Most of us, probably all of us, have experienced sacrificial giving. For me, sacrificial giving was the \$1.50 every week that I carried on my way to piano lessons. Sometimes the \$1.50 was a bill and two quarters. Other times, it was a mixture of quarters, dimes, and nickels. That mixture of coins would jingle loudly in my coat pocket and I would often daydream about a side trip to the candy store, just a block out of my way, on the six-block trip from home to my piano teacher's home. It was years later, as an adult, that I understood the sacrificial giving my mother was making for me. She was widowed while in her twenties and left with four young children to raise. With minimal education, she worked in a factory, sometimes six days a week. We were very fortunate to be surrounded by the love of God, a large extended family, and our church family. I know they all looked after my brothers, sister, and me. But I've come to realize that mixture of quarters, dimes, and nickels were gathered, not out of excess and abundance, but from the bottom of a worn change purse in a worn pocketbook, slung over the sleeve of a worn coat.

In the Bible, there are two examples of sacrificial giving that come to my mind immediately. The first is the story of the widow who gives two mites (Luke 21:1-4). Although one mite could be considered obligation, the second mite truly represented sacrifice, as it was all she had. The second example is Christ himself. He gave his life for you and me. Through his sacrifice, you and I are saved. Thanks be to God!

What does sacrificial giving mean to you and your family? How does your sacrificial giving build up the Kingdom of God here on earth? What does God intend for you? Prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift to this campaign, as we, the faith community of Fairfax United Methodist Church, restore our facility and plan for who we are called to be in the future as we extend the Kingdom to God's children.

Making and Fulfilling Your Commitment

COMMITMENT CARD		
Understanding that all I/we possess is a gift from God, and knowing that God delights in multiplying the gifts of God's children, I/we rejoice in the calling to participate in "POWER UP FOR GOD'S POSSIBILITIES" with the following three-year commitment.		
\$ _____ Weekly x 156 weeks OR,	I/we will begin my/our gift on _____	
\$ _____ Monthly x 36 months OR,	Signature _____	
\$ _____ As follows: _____	This commitment is a statement of intent and may be altered as circumstances change.	
<i>To be completed by persons making commitments other than cash:</i>		
\$ _____ Approximate value of gift.	Name (please print) _____	
_____ Method of determining value	Address (please print) _____	
_____ Description of gift	_____	
\$ _____ THREE YEAR TOTAL	Phone _____	

"Do all the wonders I have given you the power to do."
Exodus 4:21

• WHAT IS A COMMITMENT CARD, AND WHY USE IT?

First, the *Power Up with God's Possibilities* campaign commitment card is not a contract, but a simple statement of intent. With this declaration, our church will know what dollar amounts to expect and when to expect them, assisting in our planning for expenditures.

• IS MY COMMITMENT CONFIDENTIAL?

Absolutely. Only the very few people in the church who deal with finances will have any knowledge of this confidential information. It will not be used in any public way.

• MAY I CHANGE MY COMMITMENT IF NECESSARY?

Of course! Should changing circumstances force you to alter your giving plan, increasing or decreasing your commitment, all you have to do is contact the church office.

• WHEN DO I RECEIVE MY CARD?

Cards will be provided on Commitment Sunday, June 1.

• HOW DO I TURN IN MY COMMITMENT CARD ONCE I COMPLETE IT?

On June 1, we will all complete our cards as part of our worship together. A copy of the card is printed in this Newsletter so that you can be familiar with it. After completing our cards, we will consecrate and bless our commitments as a church family. If you cannot be with us on June 1, a card will be mailed to you. It can be completed and returned to the Church Office.

• WHEN DO I BEGIN GIVING? HOW LONG AND HOW OFTEN DO I GIVE?

The three-year-giving phase begins on Sunday, June 15. You determine your personal giving schedule: it may be weekly, monthly, or on a schedule of your choice. Plan your giving in a regulated way that works best for you.