St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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October 7, 2005

Dear worshipers, members and friends of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church:

During October, St. Andrew's resumes its traditional fall Stewardship Campaign, for financial pledges for calendar year 2006. (You may recall 2005 was unique, as the stewardship campaign ran this past spring, concurrent with our building campaign.) I'm writing to share what's being accomplished with your gifts, bring you up-to-date on the status of our campaigns, and ask for your support for the 2006 Stewardship Campaign.

Our Campus: Growing vitality at St. Andrew's is evident everywhere, and making the most of our available building resources is a priority. No conclusions on campus improvements—save overdue maintenance—have been made, but many alternatives continue to be carefully considered. As you have no doubt noticed, addressing deferred maintenance is well underway. The new 50-year roof better protects our place of worship and is attractive, with new skylights illuminating the entry. The removal of dry-rot above the office areas and Crothers Hall is giving our campus renewed integrity. And while it is true that remedies remain elusive for the art glass adorning our sanctuary, church leadership is carefully considering this historic part of our church.

Our Ministries: More importantly, our missions, music, and outreach programs remain very active and worthy of your continued support. Some examples include regular Habitat for Humanity work days, mission work trips to Mexico, and two energetic youth directors sharing responsibilities for our *Salt & Light* (Middle School) and *FOC* (High School) groups. *Kids Kingdom* invigorates our young; regular offerings of Disciple Classes, Bible Study, and Christ Care groups spiritually nourish our adults. Our superb musical talent inspires us each week. And, of course, our congregation and community both benefit from unparalleled pastoral care.

Pledges to Ongoing Ministries: As of this writing, gifts pledged[1] to St. Andrew's for 2005 ministries totaled 154 units, raising $342,000. While that's down a disappointing 6.8% from the peak $367,000 pledged for 2004 (170 pledges), our ministries remain strong owing to the generosity of those giving to the church, regardless of pledge status. Many who did not pledge for 2005 may not have because of the unusual timing of the campaign during the spring, or perhaps because they are relative newcomers to pledging. Regardless of pledge status, however, many are giving at least at historical and, in some cases, higher levels than before. Keep in mind that the cost to maintain our ministries will be about $450,000 in 2006, about $13,000 more than in 2005.

Building Campaign: Separately, building campaign pledges to date total $778,000. That's less than what's needed to accomplish *all* the plans for a new activity center, new youth room, campus modernization, and maintenance. We thank those expanding our ministries through improved space, who have submitted pledges *gratefully* acknowledged as sacrificial giving. We know many of you are still praying about how and what you will contribute to this exciting project. Please know we continue to accept pledges for the building campaign, to bring more spiritual life into our community with improved facilities.

In the next few weeks, you will receive another letter from me, with an invitation to pledge to St. Andrew's for 2006. Between now and then, may I ask you to give thought and prayer to what weekly, monthly, or annual offering you will make to St. Andrew's ministries? And for greater flexibility for improving the campus, may I ask you to consider making a new or increased 4-year pledge to the building campaign? I know the church and ministries we worship and grow together in will make you glad you did.

Fred L. Thorne

Fred Thorne
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Stewardship Committee

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[1] A pledge is a personal plan for financial offering to God's work at St. Andrew's. As is customary at St. Andrew's, *no one* but you, God and the church pledge clerk will know what your specific pledge is, and it can be amended at any time as your circumstances and conscience warrant. By combining individual pledges, the congregation can more successfully plan for the upcoming year, and together, we can pool expected resources for a more effective St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.