

Blessing our community and church with
our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness
Haygood Memorial United Methodist Church

STEWARDSHIP TIMES

Fall 2010



Please be in Worship with us
Sunday October 17, 2010
E-Sunday
Haygood's Commitment Sunday

Special Guest Preacher on Stewardship
Rev. Phil Schroeder



We will pledge our support in the work of the Church in 2011 and celebrate
our commitment with a churchwide barbecue immediately following worship.

STEP OUT FOR HAYGOOD

\$2400 "Fair Share"

This chart displays our pattern of giving here at Haygood. It graphs the number of families giving to Haygood against the amount they gave to the general budget fund in 2009.

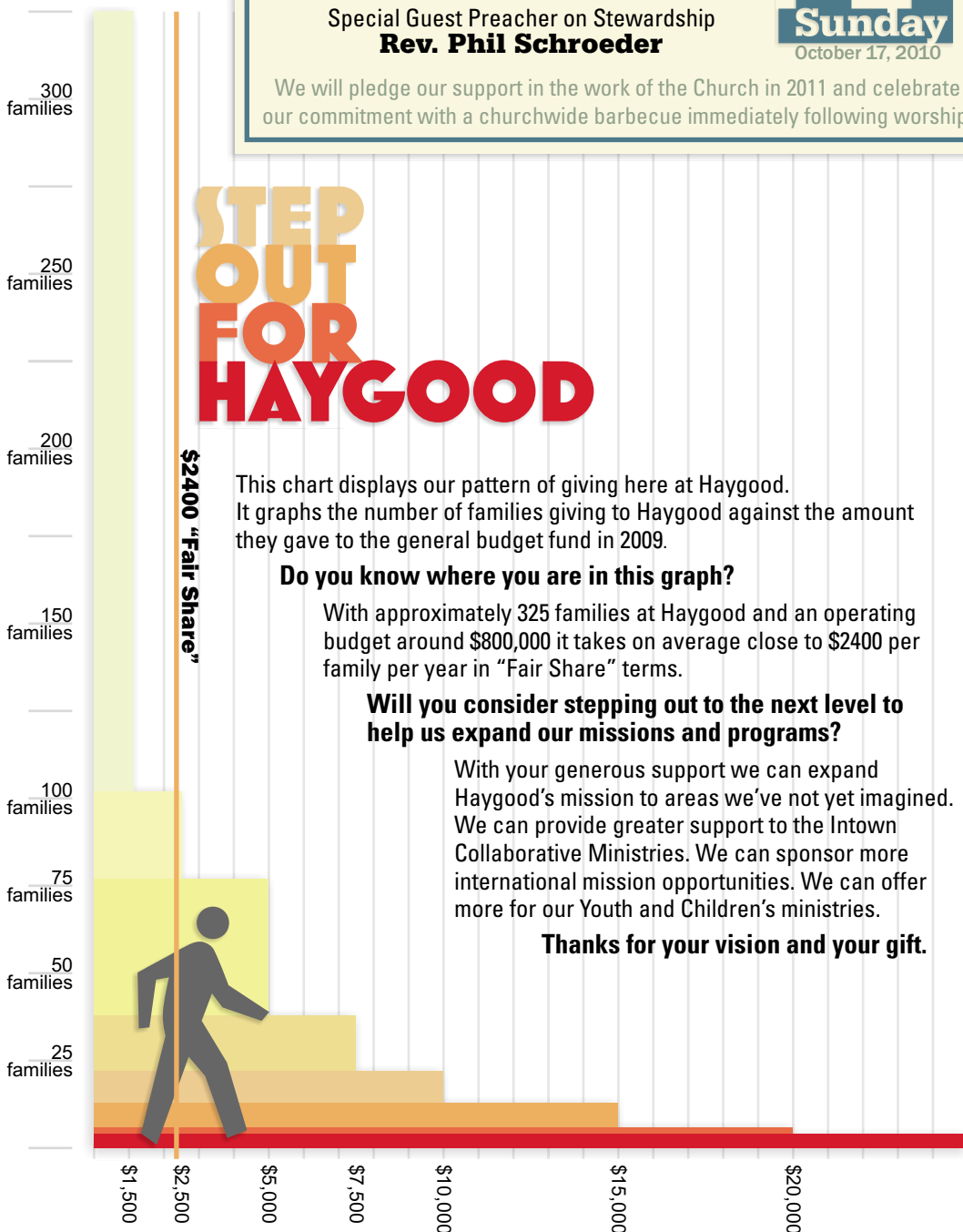
Do you know where you are in this graph?

With approximately 325 families at Haygood and an operating budget around \$800,000 it takes on average close to \$2400 per family per year in "Fair Share" terms.

Will you consider stepping out to the next level to help us expand our missions and programs?

With your generous support we can expand Haygood's mission to areas we've not yet imagined. We can provide greater support to the Intown Collaborative Ministries. We can sponsor more international mission opportunities. We can offer more for our Youth and Children's ministries.

Thanks for your vision and your gift.



EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY: THE GIVING PLEDGE

Excerpts from Letters

Forty billionaires have pledged at least half of their wealth to charity, as of August 4, 2010, in response to an invitation given by Warren Buffett and Bill and Melinda Gates. Here are excerpts from a few of their letters. To view them all go to <http://givingpledge.org/>

From Michael Bloomberg:

... Making a difference in people's lives – and seeing it with your own eyes – is perhaps the most satisfying thing you'll ever do. If you want to fully enjoy life – give. And if you want to do something for your children and show how much you love them, the single best thing – by far – is to support organizations that will create a better world for them and their children. Long term, they will benefit more from your philanthropy than from your will. I believe the philanthropic contributions I'm now making are as much gifts to my children as they are to the recipient organizations. . . .

From Warren Buffett:

... First, my pledge: More than 99% of my wealth will go to philanthropy during my lifetime or at death. Measured by dollars, this commitment is large. In a comparative sense, though, many individuals give more to others every day. Millions of people who regularly contribute to churches, schools, and other organizations thereby relinquish the use of funds that would otherwise benefit their own families. The dollars these people drop into a collection plate or give to United Way mean forgone movies, dinners out, or other personal pleasures. In contrast, my family and I will give up nothing we need or want by fulfilling this 99% pledge.

Moreover, this pledge does not leave me contributing the most precious asset, which is time. Many people, including – I'm proud to say – my three children, give extensively of their own time and talents to help others. Gifts of this kind often prove far more valuable than money. A struggling child, befriended and nurtured by a caring mentor, receives a gift whose value far exceeds what can be bestowed by a check. My sister, Doris, extends significant person-to-person help daily. I've done little of this. . . .

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APPALACHIAN MISSION TRIP BRENTON WV

By Harrison Kohler

In late July, Bart Lester, Kathy Matson, Mary Lou Gilbert, Lynn LeBreton and I went to Brenton to work on homes on a mission trip sponsored by the Appalachian Service Project. To exceed David Letterman and basically in the order of least importance to most important, I list below the twelve lessons that I learned.

12. If you want to rent a van in Atlanta during the summer, do not wait until two weeks before your trip. I was shocked when I called several rental agencies and found that none had a passenger van to rent. Fortunately, Bart knew of a location in Clayton County

11. Be prepared for second guessing your decision to go on the mission trip. As the date to leave approached, I regretted my decision to go, but I had given my word to Bart and I did not back out.

10. The people whom you serve may not be as appreciative as you would like. When the five of us began working on the home on Monday, the adults left and appeared to see us as not only home improvement workers but also as baby sitters of their grandchildren.

9. There is no cell phone reception in Brenton, and only AT&T cell service worked in Pineville, 10 miles away from the ASP Center. Fortunately, Kathy had an AT&T cell phone and generously loaned it to the rest of us.

8. Entertainment can be re-defined. An evening out consisted of going to the Dairy Queen in Pineville for ice cream.

7. Your bunk mate may be rambunctious. The man who slept above me arrived late and shook the bunk so much when he made the bed that I could not go to sleep. Lynn nicknamed the man, "Attila the Missionary." Being at a church camp will limit the language you use to vent your frustration.

6. You are going to be very sore – especially if you are 68 years old. After five days of construction work, I was aware that I may have worked hard for most of my life but I did not do hard work. Additionally, I had more cuts, bumps and bruises in five days in Brenton than I did after 10 months of combat in Vietnam.

5. Having a sense of humor really helps, especially if you can laugh at yourself.

4. You will not only confront real poverty but also realize the affluence in which nearly all of us at Haygood really live.

3. You will get to know other church members in a way that you do not have the opportunity to know them in Atlanta. The five of us spent a total of 16-18 hours in the van together on the round trip to and from Brenton. We ate every meal together and worked together all five days. We slept in improvised dormitory rooms in the same building. Also, we were fortunate to work with and get to know and appreciate several very likeable people from a Methodist Church in Pennsylvania.

2. Your feelings may change about the people you serve. The first day I thought the 8 year old grandson was a pest and a nuisance. By the end of the week, the boy had won my heart. We hugged that Friday, and I was teary as we waved good-bye.

1. You will have absolutely no regrets about your decision to go on the trip. It was an experience that I will remember and treasure the rest of my life.



A CREED FOR CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

From "The Social Creed" of The United Methodist Church
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We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We as stewards affirm the goodness of life. We rejoice in accepting the abundance with which God has endowed the earth. We commit ourselves to participate in God's redemptive intention for the world: that all people should be able to live in peace and to enjoy the days of their lives free from hunger, disease, hopelessness, and oppression.

As stewards, we commit ourselves to love and justice among persons and nations in the equitable distribution of income and wealth. We affirm the ownership of property as a trust from God. We acknowledge the responsibility to share the abundance of creation. We regard the conditions created by poverty to be demeaning to the human spirit.

As stewards, we insist on the efficient management of human and natural resources in the production of the goods and services needed by the human community. We insist on conserving resources in order to sustain permanently the fruitfulness of the earth.

As stewards, we are committed to give generously of our time, money and service through the church to the world. We affirm the tradition of tithing as a disciplined practice of giving.

As stewards, we acknowledge the necessity of civil government. We encourage all people to participate in the activities of responsible citizenship.

We believe that Christian stewardship is a joyful response to God's gifts: it is a spiritual understanding of the practical and economic aspects of all of life. Our stewardship affirms the redemptive power of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and our confidence in God's final victory in the world.