

Stewardship Snapshot

Today new members of the St. Luke's family of faith renew their Baptismal covenant and vow to "faithfully participate in its ministries by our **prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.**" Then, those of us who already claim St. Luke's as our church home echo the vow: "As members together with you in the body of Christ, and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our **prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.**"

Thanks to all of you who continue to take seriously and joyfully these vows by giving of your time and financial resources in a season when these gifts are needed more than ever for God's work in our congregation, our community, and the world.

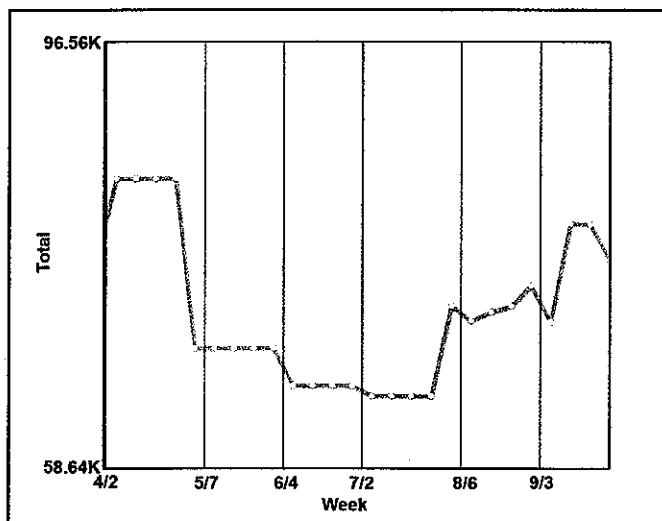
So, how are we doing?

Lives are being changed by the gifts you give. Today in worship you will hear the powerful personal **witness** of one of our new members who found a new beginning through our Employment Support Ministry.

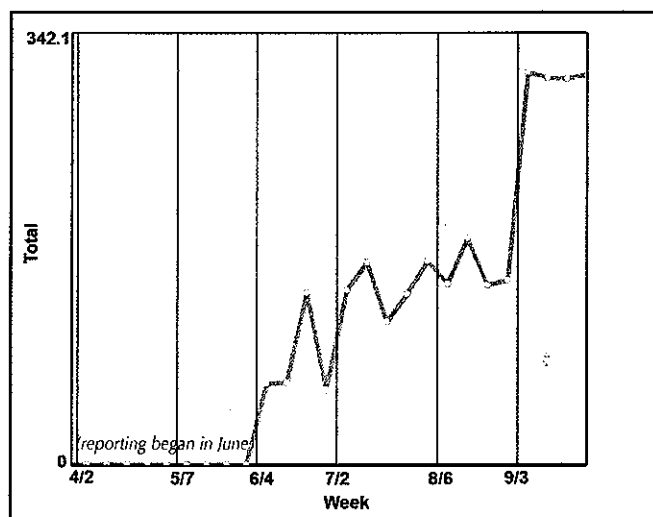
The numbers of people who worship and participate in growth groups and learning communities signify commitments of both **prayers** and **presence**. So far this year, our average weekly worship attendance in all venues (contemporary, traditional, and HopeSpring) exceeds 1,900 worshipers. Our spiritual growth groups and learning communities, where people of all ages study the Bible, pray, and share their faith add up to over 500 persons every week.

Currently more than 300 servant ministers (aka *volunteers*) engage in weekly "salty **service**" that moves us out into the community, reaching people in need with hands-on ministry that carries the good news of God's love and care. Our monetary offerings are the fuel that keeps all the ministries going, but the demand for planned ministry dollars (\$78,000 budgeted weekly) currently exceeds the average weekly gifts of \$72,000. More importantly, our financial gifts are a reflection of each Christian's relationship with God.

The graphs below provide a numerical snapshot of our collective support of St. Luke's ministries so far this fiscal year (April 1-September 30) in the areas of financial **gifts** and **service/witness**:



Financial Gifts



Service/Witness

When we respond to the membership vows, we answer together, but we also answer for ourselves, in our own unique voice, our personal commitment to God. This is not a multiple choice quiz, but a test of faith that challenges us to answer, "**All of the above!**" If you want some immediate ideas about opportunities to serve or grow spiritually, visit **Now Serving** in the Welcome Hall, Building C today after worship. To discover a variety of ways to live out your confession of faith, join the new two-session learning community "**It's All About Gifts**" beginning Sunday, November 8th at 11:00 am.

If you wish to make a pledge for the first time, or adjust a current financial commitment, fill out a commitment card online (www.st.lukes.org/pledge), or call Donna Brisbin, Director of Finance, at 876-4991, ext. 227. Even if you are not able to make an immediate gift at this time, you may be able to make a planned gift through your will or living trust. The St. Luke's Endowment Committee has that information, also available through Donna Brisbin or you may contact the Florida United Methodist Foundation at www.fumf.org.

Thank you for all the ways you live your faith!