

PASTORS

Scott Roley
Senior Pastor

Scotty Smith
Pastor for Worship,
Preaching and Teaching
Founding Pastor

Mike Smith
Pastor for Congregational
Care

John Patton
Pastor of Discipleship and
Equipping

Eric Van Zee
Pastor of Student Ministries

November 30, 2007

Dear Friends:

It's been only a few weeks since you honored Linda and me by electing me Senior Pastor. We already feel a sense of excitement and are humbled by what the Lord is doing in each of you. Christ Community *is* our community – our family. I've had a family conversation with the leadership, the elders and deacons, and now I want to encourage you as we come to the end of another year.

One of my favorite portions of Scripture is found in Acts Chapter 4. As you recall, the Holy Spirit has come as promised and lives are turned upside down as only the gospel can do.

Verse 32 says, “And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything that belonged to him was his own but all things were common property to them.” Only “abundant grace” (vs. 33) can lead us to that conclusion. What does this say to you and me – the family at Christ Community Church? In Jesus, we experience the same “disruptive grace of giving” as they did. We have a new investment strategy far beyond what a financial planner might recommend.

As we approach the halfway point of our fiscal year, we are very grateful for how God's is providing through you. But the truth is we're treading water. One person has said, “The giving is like making minimum payments on your credit cards”. We need the investment strategy of Acts 4.

God is calling us to support more missionaries, not reduce support to those who are already on the field. What a privilege to take the gospel around the world. Certainly money would not stop us!! We are also called to come along side and care for the staff that cares for us by compensating them reasonably. We need to steward out facilities and grounds well. Lastly, and certainly not least, care for our members, whether they need counseling during hard time or money in tight ones. We also are called to our neighbors around us when they need help. Let us be known as a generous body of Christ.

There are so many worthwhile ministries seeking your support at this time of year! But we're family . . . we worship God together; we baptize our precious little children into the Covenant family *together!* We meet every week, several times, *together* to hear the “good news” proclaimed! We send dozens of teams around the world every year to share the gospel because we know there is a new World coming and we'll be there *together!* We rejoice over marriage *together*. . . we mourn death *together!* Joy, pain, sorrow, and love – LIFE – we do it together!

Linda and I, along with the leadership, have decided that our family at Christ Community is our first priority. We too, as the early church, are of one heart and soul. Let's do it together and give the most generous gift God lays on your heart before year end.

In the Joy of The Incarnation,

Scott

