



HANOVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF DISCIPLESHIP
1846-2021

Stewardship Message
November 8, 2020

We are blessed by those who came before us. In 1953, Mr. and Mrs. Roy LaGrange gave the property next door for the parsonage and then gave additional property for the construction of this church. Later, the congregation acquired the Ponder properties to the east. Today, we are fortunate, because of the vision of the LaGrange's and others who took the leap into the unknown to build this campus that includes our church building, the parsonage, and Hannah's Harbor. Often, we do not know what the long-term impact of our giving on the lives of others. But trust me, our actions today, will be felt for years to come.

As we are told in 2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

First, God calls on every believer to decide in his or her heart and mind how much to give. They should then follow through on that conviction. That number could be a set amount in a specific instance. It might be a percentage of one's income on a regular basis. It should never be more than one has, as Paul wrote in the previous chapter (2 Corinthians 8:12). It should be in proportion to what has been received. The important point is that it is an individual choice based on conscience and a person's own relationship with God.

Why is this so important? It matters to God that Christian giving always be voluntary. It is not a tax or an obligation. A *gift* of money or anything else is only called a *gift* when the giver is not obligated to hand it over.

This congregation continues to have vision for the future. During the pandemic, we instituted on-line giving. We have partnered with a company called Tithely. With Tithely, you can give on-line with your computer or with the Tithely app on your smartphone. As our ways of worshipping and being in fellowship have changed, so have the ways in which we are able to support our ministries.

We began to use Tithely in late March. Since that time, \$6,600 has been given via Tithely with 31 people using it. It is safe and secure way to give. Instructions on how to use Tithely can be found on our website under the Giving tab. I would be more than happy to talk you about using it or setting it up.

You can use Tithely to give a one-time gift or you can set it up to give on a weekly or monthly basis. By giving on-line, you can give if you are at home or away. Through Tithely, you can give to the general fund or for our special asks such as Kids Unplugged, the Quilt Ministry, and others.

You should have received a letter this week explaining the campaign along with a pledge card. If you did not receive your letter in the mail this week, you should be receiving it shortly. The Finance Committee asks that you prayerfully consider what your gift will be in 2021 and bring your pledge card on November 22nd.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Keith Howard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "H".

R. Keith Howard
Finance Chair