

TERRYVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OCTOBER, 2014 NEWSLETTER

Dear Members & Friends of Terryville Congregational Church,

What is it about our church that has touched your life? Perhaps when your family was going through a difficult time, our church was here for you? Perhaps your children enjoy Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, & the Confirmation program? Perhaps you find a lot of meaning in our Women's Fellowship (Spirited Sisters) group? Perhaps you enjoy the social aspects that come along with our wonderful Christmas Bazaar and/or June Fair? Perhaps you are proud that our church believes in supporting causes such as our Famine for High School youth that helps our local Food Pantry; or the Mission Trips we have done through Simply Smiles that help impoverished Native American communities in South Dakota; or the fact that we hold monthly meals at Eli Terry Retirement Community & Gosinski Park which help a lot of people right in our own town? Take a moment to reflect on what our church means to you, and the ways in which our church has touched your life... Perhaps you find a lot of benefit in participating in our choirs? Perhaps you enjoy coming to weekly worship and/or to special services such as Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, & Easter? Perhaps you are proud that our church goes out of its way to welcome community groups into our building, hosting both Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts, as well as Daisies (Girl Scouts) & AI Anon? Perhaps when your child was Baptized or got married, we were here? Perhaps a loved one passed and the church meant a lot to you during the time of wake & funeral? Perhaps you've enjoyed working with our student interns?

What exactly does our church mean to you? I ask us to reflect on this because we are all called to support our church. Church consultants often say that churches who are the most stable financially are the ones who are willing to be open to talking about money, and open to directly asking for money. After all, in the Bible Jesus talks more about money than any other topic.

So let's talk. Did you know that our church has been running a deficit budget? We have been doing this because we want to continue all the programs that mean so much to us (and we have already made cuts to every area that we can without taking away major programming or staff). We have an endowment, but most of the endowment funds are restricted in their use and the ones that are unrestricted are there for major building repairs and not meant to be used to cover the yearly budget.

How has our church touched your life? I ask us all to reflect on this and make a pledge to support our church. Stewardship/Pledge Sunday is October 19. I ask us all to support the church both financially and with gifts of our time. Perhaps you can help chaperone an event for our youth? Perhaps you can help us with BINGO? Perhaps you can serve at one of our meals, or help with committee work or with the Christmas Bazaar or with next year's Youth Play? There are a lot of opportunities to give both financially and with our time. If we love our church, and if we believe God calls us to be good stewards, we then joyfully want to support this place and each other. Join me in keeping our church a bright light in this community and beyond!

With Christ's Love,
Rev Zack

ps- This year's pledge form will include a percentage chart that will help you determine, based on your income, what % of money you give to the church. Remember that a Biblical tithe is 10%.

pss- We now have online giving on our website www.terryvillecongregationalchurch.org. It is a secure system through paypal. You can use this for a one-time gift or for your recurring pledge, or both!