

A Few Short Words...

by Pastor Phillip Short

May marks the one-year anniversary of *The Honor Campaign*.

The Stuart First United Methodist Church will be marking the anniversary by inviting everyone to a picnic on

Sunday, May 17th at 4:00 at the new property. You are invited. It is sure to be a special day. We will have a worship service there. We will have a great opportunity for fellowship and relaxation. We will also have plenty to eat. "Iron Chef America" Danny Clark will be roasting a pig, and that will be the main course. It is a day that you will not want to miss.

I believe in *The Honor Campaign*. It has been successful on a number of different fronts, even in the face of a downturned economy. This speaks of the faithfulness of the Stuart First United Methodist Church.

The original goals of *The Honor Campaign* were to renovate the sanctuary, pay off the property, and raise funds for "new ministries." Well, as I'm sure you've noticed, the renovation of the sanctuary is completed. The Church Council voted to delete the goal

of raising funds for new ministries. The cost of the property is now before us. And this leads me to say that these goals are noble, and paying off the property is especially noble. This is our opportunity to become debt free.

Allow me to invite you to participate in *The Honor Campaign*.

Some of you are new to the church and have not yet had the opportunity to participate in this worthy endeavor. I invite you to make a two-year pledge toward *The Honor Campaign*.

Others have already met their pledges to *The Honor Campaign*. Thank you! That's remarkable. As we near completion of the goal, perhaps you are being inspired to continue support. May I encourage you to do so.

Others still have been reluctant to participate in *The Honor Campaign*. I have heard the objections and the expressions of reticence. Let me share with you.

Some have said: "I am going to wait for the church to develop a realistic budget before I donate." I am glad to say that after much hard work, the 2008 Charge Conference passed a

realistic budget that is set and fixed within our yearly patterns of giving.

Others have said: "I am going to wait to give until church spending is under control." I am glad to report that spending is 20% less than it has been compared to last year.

Others have said: "I'm going to wait until I'm sure that the church is going to do what it says it is going to do before I make a donation to *The Honor Campaign*." I hope the fact that the sanctuary is renovated, completed, and beautiful is ample evidence that the leadership of the church is staying well-within the goals and objectives that have been stated in *The Honor Campaign*.

Some have said: "We shouldn't pay 'interest-only' loans." I agree!!! Let's get out of debt!!!

Others may be asking why we are trying to pay off property during a time of economic downturn. I do not have a good answer for this. But I believe that God is in control. This reminds me of God leading Israel into the Promised Land in the book of Joshua. God told them to receive the land that He had set aside for Israel. The people would have to cross the Jordan River in order to receive

it. The problem is that they would have to cross the Jordan during flood stage in order to receive the gift of the Promised Land. Now to me, this doesn't make sense. Why wouldn't God ask Israel to cross the Jordan during a drought? I mean, that way they would only have to get their feet wet? Why would God ask them to cross while the Jordan was raging over its banks? - The answer to that is that God wanted to show His people that it was something that only He could do, and He was choosing to do it through them.—The same question might be asked: "Why don't we wait to raise this money during a economic boon?" The answer would be: "Because we would be doing this in our own power, and we would have a tendency to take credit for the accomplishment and maybe even deprive God of the glory.

Our leadership will be communicating with us about completing *The Honor Campaign* and seeing our church getting out of debt. We will be talking about getting "the train into the station." We'll be talking about being a church, a whole church, and nothing but a church. I'm looking forward to being a part of this with you!!!



Honor Campaign First Anniversary Pot Luck at our new property, 6050 Kanner Hwy Sunday, May 17th

4:00pm Service followed by potluck at 5:00pm
Bring a potluck covered dish and lawn chairs.
The church will provide drinks and paper goods.
Iron Chef America, Danny Clark will be roasting a pig as the main course!

Baptisms at Jensen Beach, Sunday, May 31

If you would like to be baptized or renew your baptism, please call the church office at 287-6262 by Wednesday, May 27th.

4:00pm service & fellowship; 4:30pm- baptisms.

Please bring a picnic for your family and stay to eat afterwards.

