

July 2009

Dear North Shore Fellowship,

Our church began with a desire to fill a hole in the North Shore for a gospel-centered church. Our vision is to be a fellowship growing together in love for God, one another, and our neighbors. This vision means we must be a safe place for the emerging generations to discover Christ in an intergenerational setting. We hope this will lead to sacrificing for transformation in North Chattanooga by giving our lives and resources away for its residents, supporting its redemptive agencies, and multiplying ministries, sites, and churches for the North Shore and for neighborhoods we grow into around the city.

Because of launching from Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church, we became an instant church with generous funding. Because we were aiming for un-churched and de-churched people, we began with little talk about money. As we now mature, faithfulness to our mission and one another requires that we identify our financial priorities and principles more clearly.

Our elders have identified guiding priorities and principles for how we invest our resources.

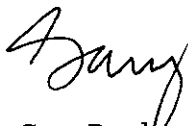
- We want to be financially agile enough to fund where God's Spirit is on the move.
- We invest in creating a safe, welcoming environment for the un-churched.
- We give generously to bless our neighbors and bring justice to those who are oppressed.
- We release funds and encourage ownership where our fellowship groups are serving.
- We encourage every member and our church as a whole to grow in the grace of giving.
- We prioritize missions that plant gospel-centered churches.

Because we have not talked much about money and because we have a strong staff and meet in two buildings, some have concluded that NSF does not really need our people to give. This is untrue! We are able to have a healthy sized staff team because we are debt-free. However, **we are not need-free!** While we own our Woodland Avenue building, we lease the Northside Community Church building for the cost of utilities and insurance. We also lease the Rock Creek building for our student ministry.

It will not surprise you that our giving declined for the first time this year. We are trimming our budget from \$1.4 to \$1.2 million this year to respond to that decline. That budget is being fine-tuned this week and will be available to you soon.

Based upon our average household giving estimate, *if each of us were to grow in generosity just 1% in the next year, we would not have to cut back NSF's ministry and giving.* Some of you already give generously. Others have given with a goal of moving toward a tithe of your income. Many give some of the cash you have on you on Sunday mornings, and some give nothing at all. **Even in these challenging times, we encourage you to steward your resources wisely and to include growing in generosity toward our mission at NSF.** We need one another!

Longing for your good and His glory,


Gary Purdy