



Dear Friends,

Simple Gifts. God has given us the simple gift of life through the gift of Jesus Christ. In the pages in this brochure, on the accompanying DVD, and in the devotional booklet, you will see members and friends of Duke Memorial sharing their gifts—gifts of time, money, and talents—to give life to others. We hope you enjoy this brochure, DVD, and booklet, and that it inspires you, as it has us, to give the gift of yourself to God and to others.

Our *Simple Gifts* stewardship campaign is giving us an opportunity to take time and ask for God's guidance. As you consider how much you will give to support the life-giving ministries of Duke Memorial UMC, don't miss the opportunity to seek God's guidance. Pray daily: *Lord, what do you want to do through me to make me an extravagantly generous disciple of Jesus Christ?* Then listen, trusting that God will answer.

God is teaching many of us to be extravagantly generous by calling us to tithe—to give ten percent of our income to support what God is doing through the church. Our family has been tithing since we were married seven years ago. As a single income family with two children (and a third on the way), this has not always been easy, especially in troubled economic times like these. But as we have sought to be obedient to God's leading, God has not ceased to be faithful in providing for us. As you pray our centering prayer—*Lord, what do you want to do through me to make me a extravagantly generous disciple of Jesus Christ?*—we will not be surprised if many of you hear God say, "Just dive in—tithe. It's simpler than you think, and it's a great blessing."

It's possible that you have not felt led to tithe, or that you have not pledged before. As you pray, consider whether God might be inviting you into the joy of pledging for the first time and seeing what difference your financial gift to the church can make in the lives of others. If you have pledged before, ask God if this is the year to increase your pledge by another one or two percent of your income.

After you have discerned the amount of your pledge, fill out your commitment card and bring it to worship on Commitment Sunday, October 11. If you cannot be present that Sunday, return your card to the church office as soon as possible or put it in the offering plate on either of the next two Sundays.

This *Simple Gifts* campaign is giving us a great opportunity to grow in faith by discerning God's will as we seek together to be an extravagantly generous church, a "sign and foretaste of God's Kingdom in downtown Durham." God will transform lives through the ministries of Duke Memorial UMC made possible by your generous gifts.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Ginger Thomas" over "Roger Owens".

Ginger Thomas and Roger Owens, Co-Pastors



Duke Memorial *invites and accepts unconditionally* all who seek community and a place to belong; encourages and guides people to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior—made possible through your simple gifts.

Here, the simple sign at the entrance speaks of the welcome that even the stranger ringing our doorbell receives.

Other ways we invite and welcome include our newsletter, our greeters at the door each Sunday morning (think of the warm welcome that Jackie and Don Underwood give, for instance), hearing assistance for the hard-of-hearing, the new wide sidewalk leading from the parking lot to the

elevator, our website, and the time of passing the peace in each worship service.

Also, all of the efforts made through the Soul Café can be seen as welcoming and inviting people to join us, not only to experience good music but also to experience warm Christian community.



Duke Memorial *responds to God in dynamic, hopeful worship* through proclaiming God's word, celebrating the sacraments, offering praise through music, song, and dance, and lifting our voices in prayer and thanksgiving—made possible through your simple gifts.

Here is Fred Mason, church organist, who offers his own gifts each week through music. Anyone who attended the worship service on September 13, for example, will remember his beautiful accompaniment of the closing hymn "O Church of God, United," allowing the third verse to be sung without accompaniment, and raising the key so that the final verse was especially triumphant.

So many people offer their simple gifts to make this idea into a reality: the pastors, the staff, the acolytes, the altar guild, the choir, the ushers, and equally importantly, the whole congregation in the worship of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Duke Memorial *nurtures spiritual growth and discipleship in children, youth, and adults* through engaging Christian education and warm and caring fellowship—made possible through your simple gifts.

Here are Dave and Laura Barkalow, with daughter Zadie, as Dave received a ministerial stole from his Sunday School class, before Dave went to a pastoral appointment. They received nurture from the Soul Café class, and provided it as sponsors to our young adults.

Other activities which provide nurture include our adult, youth, and children's Sunday schools, our Vacation Bible School, and Disciple Bible Study.

Worldwide, we provide nurture through our gifts to the Ministerial Education Fund, the Africa University Fund, and the Black College Fund.

Duke Memorial *bears witness to Christ's love* through members' daily life and work, in family life, and in acts of justice, service, and compassion to our brothers and sisters in this community and around the globe. In shorthand, this is our ministry of service—made possible by your simple gifts.



Stephen Ministers serve, and no pictures of their work are permitted, since it is confidential. As trained lay people, they offer their simple gifts of presence, listening, and Christian faith to people in need, both from our congregation and from elsewhere. The symbol to the left witnesses to the work they do. Through the ministry of Stephen Ministers, the congregation becomes a more loving community that is more sensitive and responsive to people's needs for care.

So many other ministries of service are the result of your simple gifts. Locally, we offer the Interfaith Hospitality Network to homeless people, and DCIA and Urban Ministries of Durham to the neediest among us. Our youth and adults go on mission trips to the Navajo nation, as shown on the DVD.

Worldwide, our service is extended through the missionaries we sponsor, through the institutions we provide, and through people touching and helping people when disasters hit. Think back to Hurricane Floyd in 1999 to remember how United Methodists around the world cared for the people of North Carolina, and then to other disasters to see our own congregation's outreach—a mission trip, disaster kits, shoeboxes at Christmas, and gifts to special offerings.

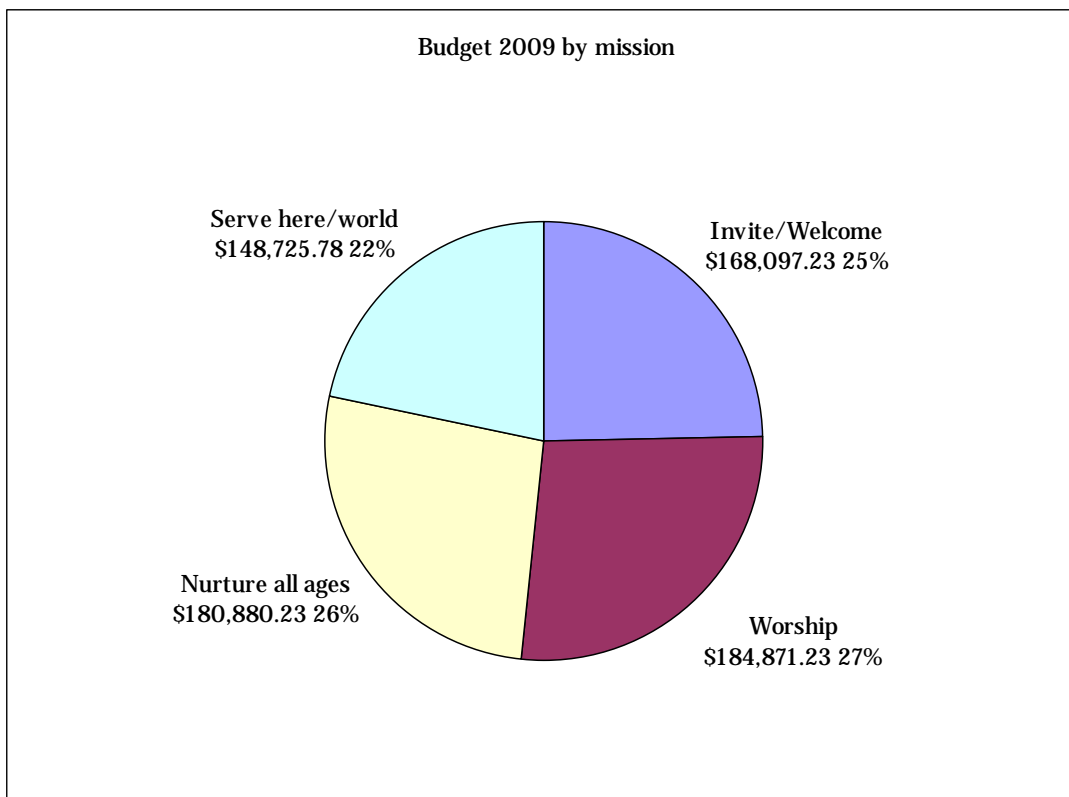
Key events of “Simple Gifts,” the stewardship campaign for Duke Memorial UMC for 2010:

September 27: First stewardship campaign worship service, followed by a free pizza lunch on the lawn, provided by the church (EVERYONE INVITED, PLEASE COME!). Theme: “Simple Hearts”

October 4: Second stewardship campaign worship service, celebrating World Communion Sunday, with a testimonial from a congregation member about what extravagant generosity means personally. Theme: “Simple Loves”

October 11: Third stewardship campaign worship service, Commitment Sunday, when we make an offering of our pledge cards to God. Theme: “Simple Lives”

The 2010 budget will be much like the 2009 budget (because of the early stewardship campaign, it has not been possible to have the 2010 budget ready yet). Here’s a breakdown by the four mission goals of how we make them possible through our own Simple Gifts:



*Amounts for staff, administration, and trustees were divided among the four areas, 10% for service and 30% for each of the other three areas.

‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ (Mark 12:33)