

***SPLENDID GIVING***

January 14, 2021

Dear Family and Friends of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,

2020 was such an unprecedented and unexpected year! We experienced a worldwide pandemic, a wild roller coaster ride for the economy, a contentious election year, just to name a few.  During much of the year our church doors had to be closed. Even so, the work of the church remained open. We learned new ways of staying connected while being socially distant. We discovered new ways to worship and conduct church ministry online. Through it all you have been remarkably and consistently generous. As a result of your generosity, our church remains strong. We were able to creatively reinvent and reimagine our programming and ministry while remaining faithful to our mission statement of being a church “called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be a Christ-like presence in the world.”

As we move into the first quarter of 2021, you are now invited to prayerfully and joyously participate in two Splendid Giving initiatives. Both of these initiatives are very important for the health and future of our church. Our Stewardship Ministry Team has chosen the theme, **“*Splendid***

***Giving*—Now More Than Ever”** for our Annual Stewardship Campaign for 2021. The Stewardship Campaign calls us to express our love, gratitude and trust in God by financially undergirding the ministry and mission of VPC. All that we do is supported and funded by these gifts from you, our beloved congregation. The dark days of 2020 certainly revealed that the need for the light of the Gospel and the presence of Christ through His Church is important “now, more than ever.”

**Exciting News!** Session approved and appointed a Capital Campaign Team to lead us to prayerfully consider a multi-year gift “over and above” our annual stewardship gifts. The purpose of this Capital Campaign is to eliminate the church’s remaining $1.7M debt. Elimination of the debt frees the church to move into the future with even greater vibrancy and creativity. The Capital

Campaign Team has chosen the theme, **“*Splendid Giving*—Forward in Faith.”**  Imagine how the church’s ministry could soar into the bright future to which God calls us, without the debt payments weighing us down!

As you can sense from the related themes of these two concurrent campaigns, this will be a coordinated effort. Both campaigns will culminate on March 28, when we turn in our pledges during

worship on Palm Sunday. Over the next several weeks you will learn more about both of these Splendid Giving opportunities. We invite you to begin praying that our generous God, whose giving is always resplendent and glorious, will inspire us to “Splendid Giving” as well.

Rob Marrow, Pastor

Carolyn Magarro, Stewardship Ministry Team moderator

Leslie Loughran and Steve Kutler, Capital Campaign co-chairs