



We aspire to be beacons of God's love and truth ...

December 6, 2023

Dear FPC Moorestown Members and Friends:

I was ready and eager to lead worship for Consecration Sunday on October 15. Then, on the Wednesday before, it felt like someone literally stuck a knife in my right shoulder blade. My neck became sore and unmovable to the point that I could barely lift my head. I went to Urgent Care twice in three days, for I desperately wanted to be in worship when we dedicated our Estimate of Giving cards for 2024. Alas, I could not. My body didn't permit me.

Wes Allen, our Associate Pastor, knew that I was struggling physically that week. On Saturday afternoon, I called Wes and told him that I couldn't preach. He said that he would be ready to lead Consecration Sunday the next morning; and he did—beautifully.

One of the regrets I felt by missing that morning was that I couldn't share with our congregation two things about me. About four years ago, Jan Martin, our Office Administrator, told me that her childhood pastor always shared his age and what he and his wife planned to give on Dedication Sundays. I so liked that idea that I've borrowed it and used it ever since. I'll give you both numbers below.

We're often private with certain personal information such as our age, our weight, how much we earn and how much we give. When it comes to my giving and my age, I don't mind sharing either with you. To be clear, I'm not seeking anyone's admiration. I'm not embarrassed by my age and I'm grateful that Leslie and I are in a position to give. Moreover, Leslie and I want to give what we can in the financial support of the ministry and mission of FPC Moorestown. We're excited for what we see happening here and we're thrilled to give.

Since I missed the chance to share with you my age and what we plan to give, here are both numbers. I'm 63 years old. Leslie and I have increased our financial commitment to \$3,100 per month or \$37,200 for 2024. This amount is about 12% of our pre-tax income. My wife and I are grateful and happy to give to our Church Family.

I thank you for your generosity. Your contributions—large and small—allow us to end 2023 in a solid financial position. As we close this year, I ask you to consider:

- 1. If you have not yet completed an Estimate of Giving card for 2024, please do so.** Every pledge is a help to our leaders in planning for the future. Estimate of Giving cards are available at the Church Office, online or through the green Give link on the front page of our website. **(over)**

2. **Thank you for remembering the church in your year-end giving.** Gifts over and above one's pledge may include stocks, *Christmas Green* offering for the church, *Christmas Joy* offering for the denomination (December 10) and General Budget Help. Online donations must be received by midnight Dec. 31, 2023 and checks postmarked by Dec. 31, 2023. Checks may be received in the offering plate up to Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023 with a date of **Dec. 31** on the check.

3. **Be sure you complete your pledge for 2023.** Thank you for doing so.

I'm glad to report that I'm feeling much better than I did in October. Thank you for praying for my healing. Thank you for your generosity. I'm grateful for every opportunity I have to give with you here for the sake of God's Kingdom and glory.

Fondly yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott Speer".

Pastor

Enclosure: return envelope