



THE BEACON

NOVEMBER 2017

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 11

Deadline for the December BEACON is Saturday, November 18. Send entries to beacon@fccucc.org.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For those who live without sufficient food, water, shelter, or safety; for veterans and those in active service; for peace and peacemakers; for areas in strife around the world.

Prayers for Heather Allen;

Prayers for Bob Buckwalter;

Prayers for Debbie Conlon;

Prayers for Peter Cotter;

Prayers for Jim Ekedahl;

Prayers for Karen Ellis;

Prayers for Donna Morong;

Prayers for Joseph & Alicia Shortill;

Prayers for Mary Suessmann;

Prayers for Barbara Thomas;

Prayers for all who grieve.



LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP

November 5

8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Chapel Worship with Communion
Sanctuary Worship with Communion, Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School. The Mission Trip Team will give the message. Fellowship time follows.

November 12

8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Chapel Worship
Sanctuary Worship with Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School. Cindy Maddox will give the message. Fellowship time follows.

November 19

8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost Thanksgiving Sunday

Chapel Worship
Sanctuary Worship with Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School. Cindy Maddox will give the message. Fellowship time follows.

November 26

8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Chapel Worship
Sanctuary Worship with Meetinghouse Choir and Sunday School. Rev. J. Barrie Shepherd will give the message. Fellowship time follows.

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

MISSION GLOBE, ALTAR FLOWERS & STEEPLE REMEMBRANCES

MISSION GLOBE:

November 5—In memory of our **Mothers, Helen Marguerite Prescott and Jacoba Onos**, by Diane and Jerry Onos.

ALTAR FLOWERS:

November 12—In loving memory of **Carol Thorne, wife, mother and grandmother, in remembrance of her birthday**, from Phil, Judy, David and their families.

November 26—In celebration of the baptism of **Charles Wiggins Huntoon**, from Bryan and Dana Wiggins.

THANKSGIVING BOUNTY:

November 19—from the Flower Committee to be donated afterwards and distributed by Youth Ministry for food baskets for needy families.

STEEPLE DEDICATIONS:

November 19-25—In loving memory of **Wayne M. Lockwood, Dad and Grandfather**, from Bruce, Ann, Rachel and Andrew

To remember or celebrate loved ones with flowers on the altar or light the Mission Globe, please contact Dana Wiggins at danawig@gmail.com.

For Steeple Dedications, please call the Church Office.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, November 1—We will meet at **11:30 a.m.** in the church parking lot (or inside if it's cold) to go to **David's Restaurant** in Portland for lunch. **RSVP by October 30.**

Thursday, November 16—**SAM meeting at 1:00 p.m.**

Sunday, November 19—We will be leaving the church at **4:15 p.m.** for a trip to the State Street Congregational Church and **"Celestial Sounds,"** which is a performance sponsored by USM and features three choirs, with music from classical to Broadway tunes. Please call the Church Office to reserve a \$5 ticket.

Friday, December 1—**RSVP soon for a 12:00 p.m. lunch at SMCC.** It will be a sit-down meal and costs \$16, which includes a four course meal, tax and gratuities.

Friday, December 8—we will leave the church at **1:00 p.m.** for a matinee performance of the **"Magic of Christmas"**, The last "Magic" for Robert Moody. Tickets are first come, first served, at \$20.

Thursday, December 14—**SAM meeting at 1:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, December 20—There will be a **Christmas cookie exchange at Sue Stevens' house** (12 Kaler Rd., SP) at **1:00 p.m.** Cookies are not necessary for admission to the party.

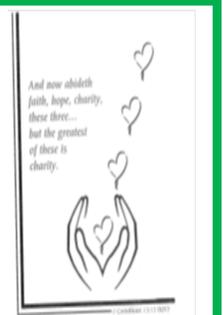
SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION is ongoing, so don't forget to register your child!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you have **1-1/2 to 2 hours a week** to help with the **Food Pantry**, or **2 hours a month** to help with **The Beacon or Senior Moments**? Please call the Church

MISSION MALL

Even though it's only October, the Christmas season is not that far away. The Mission Mall is planning to invite three or four charities to be present with us at the Bazaar & we hope you will plan to visit with them & think about including Mission Mall charities in your Christmas giving. In using the Mission Mall, you are helping a charity as well as honoring a loved one or co-worker, and its tax deductible. As we all know, once Christmas is behind us, tax season looms. Planning ahead is a good thing. Hope to see you at the Mission Mall!



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

We are again providing Thanksgiving baskets for 30 families this holiday season. The baskets will be packed and distributed **Sunday, November 19**.

In order to maintain consistency in the contents of the baskets, there will be specific items requested, such as, vegetables, pie shells and filling, stuffing, cranberry sauce. **Items needed for the baskets will be printed on labels that will be located on the Mission Outreach Bulletin Board in the church hallway beginning Sunday October 29.** Take labels for the items you wish to contribute, as many labels as you wish, and bring those food items to church Sunday morning November 19. The food will be collected in the chancel area by the altar. Collection boxes will be available at church for donations to be dropped off prior to November 19 if necessary.



There will not be labels for contributing turkeys. Hannaford's Mill Creek is working with us once again providing turkeys through donation and discount price.

If you are not able to get the labels, but wish to contribute, please bring canned vegetables or fruits. Anyone who would like to stay after worship November 19 and help pack the baskets in the chancel area of the sanctuary is welcome. Your generosity is appreciated. ~ *Mission Outreach Team*

STEEPLE WINDOWS ANYONE?

The church recently replaced the windows in our steeple. The old windows are available to anyone with interest in some or all of them. The 4 windows were original to the steeple and have wooden sashes. Each window is approximately 4' by 10' with 24 panes of frosted glass. They are currently stacked on the right side of the church if you would like to look at them. The hope is that we can find a home for them and not have to recycle since they still have some useful life. Please contact the church office if you have an interest.



COMING SOON: CARE GROUPS

One of the wonderful characteristics of church is that it provides a community of care and support. Few other organizations provide the sense of belonging that churches can provide. Friendships develop, both with people like us and people different from us. These relationships enrich our lives.

Sometimes these connections happen effortless, but often they need more intentionality. That is why many churches have some form of small group ministry. Small groups help people get connected, provide needed support in times of crisis, and strengthen our bonds to God and the church.

With this in mind, we are starting a new ministry called Care Groups. Care groups are small groups (not more than 12 people) who meet monthly for discussion and fellowship. There will be a very brief reading each month, which all groups will use as the starting point for their discussion. But other than a common topic, the groups themselves will look different and be coordinated around different demographics or interests. For example, some people will want a group near their home, particularly if they live further from the church (Scarborough or Portland, for example). Others may choose a group because it meets during the day, rather than in the evenings. Still others may want a group with people in similar life situations. (For example, we already have about 10 people interested in a care group for parents of young children.) We might even have a group that prefers to meet in restaurants. Everybody is encouraged to join a group; however, nobody will be assigned to one or expected to join one if you don't desire.

A signup board will be available soon in the Connections Corridor (the curved hallway). You can sign up for a type of group already listed, or add a suggestion for a different interest or demographic. The Care & Connections Ministry Team will be organizing the groups, which will start meeting in January.

Have questions? Speak with Bob Morse, Kathy Sahrbeck, or Cindy Maddox.

BENEFIT CONCERT FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Save the date! Jonathan Edwards will be performing in our sanctuary on **Friday, November 3 at 7:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$30 ahead of time, \$35 at the door. Proceeds will benefit Greater Portland Family Promise and our budget. Tickets will be available in October through the church office, Nonesuch Books and on-line through Brown Paper Tickets (<http://jedwardsnov3.brownpapertickets.com>).



Greater Portland Family Promise aims to address the needs of families facing homelessness in the Greater Portland, Maine area. Through an interfaith network and connections with existing community resources, Family Promise provides housing, meals, case management and community for children and their families experiencing homelessness. Families in the program are the guests of a different church each week. There they sleep, have evening meals and rest time. During the day, they move into a day room in Portland from which the children attend school and the adults work towards finding jobs and housing.

LANDSCAPING

The Administration and House Committees have initiated a program to improve the landscaping of the grounds around the church and the adjacent rental properties. The first phase will start this year and includes extensive trimming and structural improvements of the trees and shrubs in late November and December, as well as steps to prepare the lawns for rebuilding the damaged areas next spring. The master plan to address the design and ongoing maintenance of the grounds will be implemented during the coming months. We are grateful to landscape architect John Mitchell for his guidance during this effort. This program is independent of the work of our volunteer gardeners.



IRS REGULATIONS REGARDING CONTRIBUTIONS

With the end of the calendar year approaching, please plan ahead for gifts that you would like to be tax deductible for 2017.

In general, gifts/pledges must be received by the church office by **December 31**, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2017.

However, checks that are written and postmarked in 2017 will be deductible in 2017, even though they may not be received by the church in 2017. Stock transfers must be received in our brokerage account at Morgan Stanley

Smith Barney by December 31. Checks that are placed in the church offering on the first Sunday of 2018 (January 7), will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2017, even if the check is predated to 2017 or was actually written in 2017.

Additionally, please do not file your 2017 tax return until you have a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Per the IRS, your contributions may not be tax deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions.

~ Nancy Irving (business@fccucc.org)

HOLLY DAZE BAZAAR WISH LIST

We need handcrafted and knitted items, attic treasures, books and puzzles, cookies and baked goods. Contact any of the volunteers listed below, if you have questions.

HOLLY DAZE BAZAAR

Saturday, November 18, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.



The members of your Bazaar team need your donations. Always appreciated are: knitted items and small pies and loaves. You might wish to donate books, jewelry or other gift items.

Please call any of the people listed below and offer a few minutes or a few hours of your time.

This year we are having our third annual **Cookie Walk**! This is how it works: First you buy a box that holds a pound of cookies; then, you walk around Wright Pavilion filling your box with your favorite cookies. If you plan to bake for the Cookie Walk, please limit your baking to Holiday Cookies, only. (Please—no chocolate chip cookies or brownies; however the **Food Court** would love to have them.)

Please drop your cookies for the **Cookie Walk** off at the Church on **Friday, November 17**.

We need more volunteers! Please call any of the people listed below to offer a few minutes or hours of your time. Working together, we can once again make the Bazaar an outstanding success.

Reminder: Donations to the Bazaar may be left in **Guptill Hall through Wednesday, November 15**.

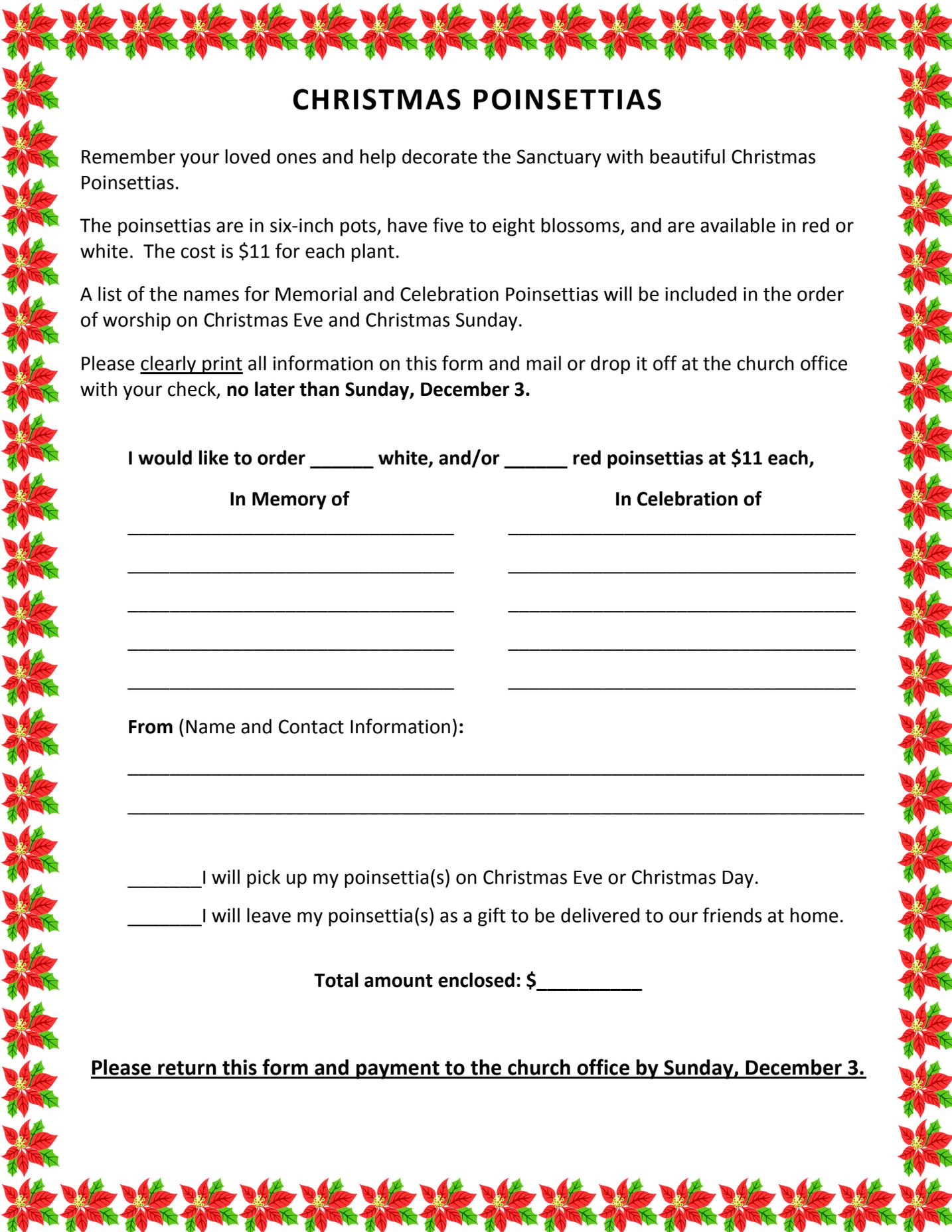
Cookies and food should be dropped off on **Friday, November 17, before 2:00 p.m.** (or very early Saturday morning.)

Luncheon hours: 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

The marvelous menu includes yummy haddock chowder, fresh crabmeat and lobster rolls, chicken salad rolls and apple crisp. So, come and sit with your church friends and neighbors and savor the meal and the moments. Take-out will be available.

The Bazaar is chaired by Janice Files, 653.6158, and Lynne Lanctot, 799-1785. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication.

<u>Trash & Treasure</u>	<u>Knit & Purl</u>	<u>Gifts</u>
Scott Berry 767.0236	Elinor Redmond 767.4198	Deb Wood 838.7967
<u>Grandma's Attic</u>	<u>Jewelry</u>	<u>Books</u>
Prudy Wiggins 799.5705	Deb Riley 767.3149	Mary Anne Wallace 774.4096
<u>Food Court</u>	Sue Mitchell 767.2063	<u>Christmas Room</u>
Karen Westerberg 799.1055	<u>Fair Fancy</u>	Pat Harmon 883.6535
<u>Luncheon</u>	Nancy Irving 799.3361	Stephanie Greenland 603.321.3021
Judy Magnuson 799.3034	<u>Candy</u>	<u>Greens</u>
Carrie Skeffington 874.6612	Kathy Cotter 799.4808	Margaret Anderson 799.2846
		Marie Jordan 799.1408



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Remember your loved ones and help decorate the Sanctuary with beautiful Christmas Poinsettias.

The poinsettias are in six-inch pots, have five to eight blossoms, and are available in red or white. The cost is \$11 for each plant.

A list of the names for Memorial and Celebration Poinsettias will be included in the order of worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday.

Please clearly print all information on this form and mail or drop it off at the church office with your check, **no later than Sunday, December 3.**

I would like to order _____ white, and/or _____ red poinsettias at \$11 each,

In Memory of

In Celebration of

From (Name and Contact Information):

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia(s) on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

_____ I will leave my poinsettia(s) as a gift to be delivered to our friends at home.

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please return this form and payment to the church office by Sunday, December 3.

Manage Business, Church Calendar

Nov 2017 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary	30	31 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir	1 9am - Children's 6:30pm - Children's 6:30pm - Eskimos @	2 10:30am - Laisurely 6:30pm - Care & 6:30pm - S. L & W @ 7pm - Mission	3 7:30pm - Concert	4 9am - Children's 5:30pm - Soup
5 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary	6	7 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir	8 2pm - CCM Review 6:30pm - Children's	9 10:30am - Laisurely 12pm - Staff 6:30pm - Administr 7pm - Pastor Parish	10 10am - Labyrinth	11
12 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary	13	14 1pm - Memorial 1:45pm - Reception 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir	15 6:30pm - Children's	16 Set up for Hollydaze Bazaar @ Wright 7pm - Council	17 Beacon Deadline 9am - Hollydaze	18
19 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary 11:30am - Thanksgl	20	21 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir	22 6:30pm - Children's	23 Office is closed for	24 Office is closed for	25
26 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Sanctuary	27	28 6:30pm - Prayer 7pm - Choir	29 6:30pm - Children's	30 10:30am - Laisurely	1 9am - Children's 5:30pm - Soup	2

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
301 Cottage Road
South Portland, ME 04106

(207) 799-3361

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Time Sensitive Newsletter

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I LOVE MY CHURCH: WHY AND HOW!

Our pledge campaign this year asks two important questions: *Why do you love your church?* And *How do you love your church?* We all have our reasons for calling this place one of our spiritual homes—such as its rich traditions, work for justice, generosity toward those in need, or the relationships we have built here. And how do you show your love? Do you give as generously as you are able in both time and money?

Please prayerfully consider your pledge for 2018, and join us on **November 12** for Consecration Sunday.

I LOVE MY CHURCH: WHY & HOW
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE

I love my church because _____

Out of love to God & church, I/we plan to give:
\$ _____ each (circle one) week or month
for an annual total of \$ _____

I/we also plan to give time in the following ways

Please keep the top portion for your records and
as a reminder to pray for the church.
----- (cut here) -----

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
EMAIL _____

I love my church because _____

Out of love to God & church, I/we plan to give:
\$ _____ each (circle one) week or month
for an annual total of \$ _____

I would like to be contacted about offering my
time in the following area(s):

Signed: _____