

Dear Member,

First, let me express my heartfelt gratitude for your faithfulness in giving to the ministry of Friendship Baptist Church. Your generosity, along with the steadfast support of members like you, is a vital part of our ability to carry out the mission God has given us. In this season, our church is in a healthy financial position, in part due to the extraordinary generosity of a few faithful givers who have made very large one-time gifts. We are deeply grateful and do not take this for granted. We recognize that every gift, large or small, represents a sacrifice of love, worship, and obedience to God. So we say, **THANK YOU!** At the same time, we are not dependent solely on exceptional gifts; we need the steady, faithful giving of the entire church body to sustain ministry, advance God's mission, and prepare for future growth. ***We thank you for your consistent giving.***

As you know, we are currently in the midst of our **Stewardship Maximized** preaching series, and I thank you for your engagement in this spiritual journey. As we've been learning together, stewardship is not just about finances; it is about our whole lives surrendered to God. Stewardship is a matter of the heart, the hands, and the habits we develop as disciples of Jesus. Further, giving and generosity go with our spiritual formation, as we learned in 2 Corinthians 8 & 9.

It is with that in mind that I am excited to announce our **three-month Stewardship Challenge Initiative**:

**Wholehearted: A Journey in Stewardship and Trust
Try God. Trust God. Track God.**

This **90-day discipleship initiative** is rooted in *Malachi 3:6–12* and is an invitation for every member to embrace the spiritual disciplines of:

- **Tithing (Giving 10% of Income/Increase)** — Placing God first in our finances.
- **Legacy Planning** — Preparing wisely for the future.
- **Trusting God's Provision** — Believing His promises in every area of life.
- **Utilizing Spiritual Gifts and Talents** — Serving God and others through what He has uniquely given you.
- **Growing and Deepening in Discipleship** — Committing to ongoing spiritual maturity through prayer, study, and obedience.

We will officially kick off **Wholehearted: A Journey in Stewardship and Trust** on **Sunday, September 7**, with our first **"Bring the Whole Tithe Sunday."** On this day, we encourage every member to bring the whole tithe according to their pay schedule. Whether you are paid weekly, bi-weekly, twice a month, or monthly, this is an opportunity to align your giving with God's command and step out in faith. We invite you to participate fully in the 90-day challenge, "Try God, Trust God, and Track God," by bringing the whole tithe on the **first Sundays of September 7th, October 5th, and November 2nd**. Together, we will commit to this journey of obedience, faith, and spiritual growth.

This challenge is about far more than giving; it's a journey of surrender, faith, and spiritual growth. Whether you are starting, restarting, or strengthening your stewardship walk, this season calls all of us to live and give with our whole hearts.

Strategic Partnerships for September 7 and Beyond

Throughout this initiative, we will host on-campus booths and after-service consultations with:

- Reputable mortuary representatives
- Christian estate planners and attorneys
- Financial advisors with faith-based experience
- Healthcare professionals to assist with Advance Directives

We will also strongly encourage every member to join a Bible study and discover new ways to serve. To help with this, we will provide a list of Friendship Bible Studies along with several self-paced studies available through **RightNow Media**. Our goal is to see every member not only grow in generosity but also in biblical knowledge and personal discipleship during this season. In addition, there will be Bible reading groups designed to help participants read through the Scriptures before the end of the challenge. These opportunities will give every member a way to deepen their faith, strengthen their understanding of God's Word, and grow alongside others during the 90-day journey.

Our ministry team will provide a ***Volunteer Opportunities List***, specifying the role, time commitment, and schedule: for example, serving once a month in Children's Church for three hours. In addition, we will provide opportunities by county, allowing members to serve in their neighborhood communities.

Whether you give much or little in earthly terms, your generosity matters greatly in the kingdom of God. Among our members, many have given over \$3,000 this year, providing vital support that sustains and expands our ministry. Others have given between \$500 and \$2,999, faithfully helping to meet the needs of the church through consistent support. Still others have given \$500 or less, contributing in ways that reflect both generosity and a willingness to grow in this area. Whatever your current level of giving, the ***Wholehearted: A Journey in Stewardship and Trust*** challenge is an opportunity for each of us to take a next step, to ***Try God, Trust God, and Track God*** over the next 90 days as we align our giving with His call, grow in our discipleship, and strengthen the ministry of Friendship Baptist Church.

I am inviting you personally to commit to this journey prayerfully. ***Try God, Trust God, and Track God*** over these next 90 days, and watch how God will honor your faithfulness, grow your spiritual maturity, and use your obedience for His glory.

Thank you again for your generosity, your prayers, and your partnership in the gospel. Let us walk together, wholeheartedly, into this season of stewardship and trust.

In His service,

Rev. Kenneth C. Curry, Jr., M. Div., D.Min.
Senior Pastor