

Stewardship Director

Submitted by: Suzanne Cole

List of the members currently serving on your ministry or leadership team:

Suzanne Cole

As you look at the goals you had planned for 2021, what were you able to accomplish? Please be as specific as possible.

My goal stated in my 2020 report was to work with the Elders to strategize for new ways to inspire giving and commitment among the congregation. I regret that we did not accomplish this in 2021.

How has your ministry's or leadership team's work and goals shifted throughout 2021 (due to COVID or other events)?

In 2021, our major focus was fundraising for the Sanctuary Enhancement & Accessibility (SEAC) project. I am pleased to report that we have exceeded our initial goals and are on track to fully fund that project.

Meanwhile, we held our regular Stewardship Campaign, this year entitled "Faithful, Hopeful and Loving." Thanks to the congregation's generosity, we have secured pledges that slightly exceed our pledged amount for 2021 by about 5%. As always, we are very grateful to the 58 households in the church who have made a commitment to Old First's financial stewardship.

Where is your group or ministry area stuck? Do you need help in discerning who to ask to join your group or to get more involved?

As stated above, I would love to enlist the Elders' assistance in finding ways to inspire the congregation to commit time and financial resources. We tried the model of doing 4th Sunday Stewardship moments to keep the concept alive all year. However, I have found it increasingly difficult to get volunteers for this task. I'm thinking that it's time for a different model.

What do you hope to accomplish in 2022?

- ❖ Follow through on the pledges to the SEAC project (i.e. confirming that pledged amounts are fulfilled, writing thank-you notes, etc.)
- ❖ Implementing a stewardship program for the 2023 budget

What are the ways that the church can support your team in achieving your goals for the upcoming year?

As stated above, I would like the Elders' support to determine a new strategy for inspiring stewardship commitments.