

StewardSHIP 2009...COME ABOARD!

Sue: GOOD MORNING! As predictable as the cooling temperatures and falling leaves of autumn, this season also marks the arrival each year of the Stewardship Campaign. When the members of the Stewardship Committee first gathered to formulate our goals for the upcoming campaign, there was a consensus for 2009 that we needed everyone in the church to (quote) “be on board”. It wasn’t long before our theme, “*StewardSHIP 2009...Come Aboard*”, was launched. Actually, the ship has been a metaphor for the church for centuries, so this was not a stretch for us! On our ship, we gather together in a safe harbor and then journey outward for mission in the world. We have a talented and hardworking crew, we have passengers who are willing to be both volunteers and leaders in our programs, we have many mission-related ports of call that take us to distant shores, and we have regular maintenance and operating expenses from bow to stern and from the decks to the galley. In coming weeks, you will hear specific details from a steward about our ship’s inspiring itinerary, from a purser on our budget and how to keep our ship financially afloat, and from a Welcome Committee representative on embarkation procedures for YOU to board the *StewardSHIP* on Sunday, November 2nd. While we are all very much aware of the turbulent seas of our economy, we know that our ship has persevered through extraordinary times during the past 181 years and we believe that, with everyone on board, we will be able to stay the course and reach our destination.

The StewardSHIP “ Dialogue with Harrison Lucas

John (8:30 service) and Peter (10:30 service) Soft Ship Foghorn (from the organ) is heard...(after I say the last line “...we will be able to stay the course and reach our destination.”

Sue: *What was that noise? It seems to be coming from far away. Harrison, would you please look through these binoculars at the horizon to see what might be making that noise?*

Harrison steps on the stool behind the microphone, takes the binoculars to his eyes and looks toward the back of the church (the horizon) slowly moving the binoculars from the left to right and then back to the center where he stops abruptly.

Sue: *Harrison, what do you see?*

Harrison: *I see a really BIG ship heading our way.*

Sue: *Look again...Do you see a name on the ship?*

Harrison looks through the binoculars aimed at the center of the church and says,

Harrison: *Yes, it says “The Spirit of Third Church.*

Sue: *That's our StewardSHIP. Let's send it a signal.*

Harrison rings the bell three times.

John (8:30 service) and Peter (10:30 service) Louder foghorn (in response to our bell signal)

Sue: *With delight and anticipation of its arrival, we hope you will all make plans to "Come Aboard" The Spirit of Third Church on November 2nd.*

Harrison: *Ahoy, matey...Full steam ahead!*