

## *Stewardship Sunday – January 15<sup>th</sup>*

### **Patrick's First 7-10 Minutes:**

1. There is a chapel on Iona. **{SLIDE ONE}** Once upon a time a small band of men set out from Ireland to bring Christianity to what would later become Scotland and, from there, to northern Europe. They lived in simple beehive shaped structures and expended themselves – their lives, their goods – in the cause that consumed them: bring Christ to the darkest places on earth.
2. Many years later Christianity was alive on the Continent. People remembered Iona and even buried the kings of Scotland there. Eventually, to honor those men and the faith they brought, people built a beautiful cathedral, **{SLIDE TWO}** complete with cloisters, naves, fonts, elaborate crosses and stained glass.
3. The mission of Iona died. Instead of men expending themselves in the mission of God, taking Christ to the valleys and mountains, now people gathered at the church to worship and decorate – elaborate and reflect. But no mission was being done. It was now a museum of faith, not a launching pad of faith.
4. Our theme this year is “Takin’ it to the Streets.” **{SLIDE THREE}** Everything we do at Rochester Church is dedicated to connecting people to Jesus and to each other. We want no museum of faith here, no holy bunkers. If we believe – as we say we do – that our neighbors, friends, and business partners are doomed for all eternity without Jesus, then our behavior must change individually and collectively.
5. It is time to behave as we say we believe.
6. We have undergone a true revolution in our organization. We are no longer content to be a nice church for nice people (though we hope we are nice and we still welcome nice people!). We want to be a conduit of the grace of God in Rochester and throughout the world.
7. Our staff has been reorganized and given clearer, more detailed duties. We have also reorganized our ministries to make them more effective and more pleasing to God. **{SLIDE FOUR}**
  - a. **Inviting Ministries:** Worship, drama, and front end ministry effects. Evangelistic efforts in small groups, large scale events, etc.
  - b. **Growing Ministries:** These are in place to help us grow as individuals and as a congregation. These include Lifestage Ministries, Women’s and Educational Ministries, Small Groups, new and challenging Bible classes, and an aggressive attempt to get every member involved in using their talents to the glory of God.
  - c. **Serving Ministries:** We are already well known for these, but they need to grow exponentially for there are too many people untouched by the love

of Christ. Here we find GHH, Missions, special outreach events, work groups sent to rebuild homes, and short term work events on the mission field.

d. **Support Ministries/Facilities:** Debt service, utilities, and equipment.

8. This Thursday we will mail to every member a brochure that details each of these ministries and how you can truly become a part of God's work in this place. We start today with short videos of some of the works being launched from this place. Are you ready to get excited about Christ's dream for Rochester in 2006?

[**NOTE:** after the Triad, 180, and Children's ministry videos, Patrick will get back up and call Bert and David forward for prayers. Patrick will not leave the stage, but will stay there to lead us into the Lord's Supper and Contribution]

*Videos for GHH and Counseling  
Worship (3-4 songs)*

**Patrick's Second 7-10 Minutes:**

1. This is a different way of doing a budget Sunday. Next week at the 10 o'clock hour the elders will give a line item overview of the budget and answer any questions you might have in the (get room number here).
2. 2005 was a year with good and bad news. Our attendance went up – way up. There is more peace and harmony in the body than there has been in a long while. Our children have caught our love of missions. And families? They are everywhere! We have 219 families with children and 102 families that have teens. Truly, we have not yet touched the hem of the garment when it comes to children's ministries.
3. It could be said that we haven't touched the hem of the garment on any of our ministries, but we have the heart for it, we have the faith for it, and now is the time for it.
4. At RCC we have 458 resident families, not including 29 college students who have identified as members here.
5. In Oakland County, the average household income was nearly \$62,000 (and in Rochester Hills it was nearly \$75,000). Let's take the lower number and lower it even more... what if we took \$60,000 as the average salary and then challenged each other to be a tithing church? **{SLIDE SEVEN FROM 1.15ppt}**
  - a. We would have a contribution of \$53,000 a week. Our actual giving to God was less than half of that.
  - b. To just maintain our mission to be the light of Christ in this place **{SLIDE SIX FROM 1.15ppt}** we have put a bare bones budget out there for 2006 that requires a weekly giving of \$25,000. – less than half a tithe.

- c. A legitimate question is: **{SLIDE EIGHT FROM 1.15ppt}** What could God do here if we were to commit an extra \$27 or 28,000 a week toward ministry in our local area? How much more could be done for the children Jesus loves? How many more families could be fed and clothed and loved?
6. Your leaders have stepped up to lead in this. We are **{SLIDE THREE FROM 1.15ppt}** under 4% of the family units of this congregation, but we have already committed among ourselves to amounts that add up to 12% of the budget. **{SLIDE FOUR, then FIVE FROM 1.15ppt}**
7. You will be given the chance to join us. **{SLIDE NINE FROM 1.15ppt}** You will receive the brochure, pledge cards and reminders that it is time we lived up to what we say we believe: that Jesus is THE way, THE truth, and THE life and that NO ONE comes to the Father except through Him. That to whom much is given much is required. And that we are not called to lay up for ourselves treasures on earth, but treasures in heaven.
8. Giving is a huge part of this, but it is not all of it. You, as a baptized believer, have been ordained by the Holy Spirit into ministry – a life and lifestyle of ministry. Until and unless you step up in faith, this body will be crippled, functioning at a fraction of its capacity.
9. It's your choice: a chapel on an island.... Or a city on a hill, a light in the darkness, a people of God, hand in hand with Christ, empowered by the Spirit. Catch the dream and live what you say you believe.

[Call up an elder and dismiss with prayer]