

This week's Investor Bulletin highlights yet another investment we make in the various ministry and mission areas of the church. The care and support of our church family is an essential work of our church, and so the investment we make in **Congregational Care** is vital.



This investment enables the church to be the presence of Christ in times of illness, crisis, grief, and for all the days that end in "why?" It's hard to quantify the significance and yield of this work. It may be helpful to know that Woodlawn's pastors offer prayer and encouragement to more than a dozen members each month as they prepare for procedures or are hospitalized. Pastors also care for bereaved members and their families. Each year our church suffers the loss of about twenty persons and our church families experience another 60 to 70 family losses. Our annual All Saints service was held on the first of this month, remembering and honoring those who have passed away. And Woodlawn offers GriefShare groups to help

bring healing, hope, wholeness and the touch of Christ to those who have experienced loss.

Woodlawn's eighteen Stephen Ministers also offer care and support by providing one-to-one spiritual friendship and encouragement to those requesting their presence. Together we invest in each Stephen Minister's training, materials, and ongoing supervision and support to sustain this crucial ministry.

Ongoing calls, cards and visits seek to connect our nursing home residents and shut-ins with their church, made possible by our giving. During the pandemic our church began mailing "Hometouch" mailings to 52 persons each week as a way to help dispel isolation and loneliness while pastors and care givers are unable to visit in person.

The church's investment in Congregational Care also generates celebration as Woodlawn seeks to share in the joy of births, baptisms, weddings, and new members! It helps provide "Bundle of Joy" gifts to new parents, and sends care packages to our congregation's college students and soldiers.

Finally, each weekday our church office sends a daily email with prayer requests from our congregation and from our website. If you would like to pray for these needs each day, you can subscribe to the email by contacting Lois in the church office at LoisD@WoodlawnUMC.net. In this way, you can invest not only your gifts, but your time into the care of our congregation!

As you consider your own investment in Woodlawn's ministry, please consider the great benefit your giving returns for the care and support of individuals and families in our congregation. **You can make your 2021 pledge now** online at www.WoodlawnUMC.net under the "Giving" link, or return the enclosed estimate of giving form to the church at 431 S. Woodlawn Blvd., Derby, KS 67037.

