

**The Greening of the Church**  
**Jim Rowe**  
**October 12, 2008**

Good Morning.

I want to talk to you for a minute about The Greening of the Church. What I mean by this is, however, is probably not what you are thinking I mean. I am not talking about our Christmastime decorating event, but instead I am referring to a stewardship initiative proposed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee that will green the church by making us more environmentally responsible in the way we operate our facilities.

The congregation has recently been very supportive, in our annual budgets and with the Century Campaign, of the needs of the church facilities. As a consequence of this, the condition of our buildings is as good as it been in years.

The initiative I'm here to discuss today, however, represents an acknowledgement on our part that we need to expand our notion of the stewardship of our facilities. This effort, which was originally suggested by Jen Herbst, would demonstrate our care for and stewardship of God's creation by reducing our energy consumption. **Specifically we are proposing the installation of photovoltaic (or solar) panels on the roof of our education wing to supply a significant portion of our electrical needs.** This location gets a great deal of sunlight and is unobtrusive.

We believe that this is a worthwhile and feasible project. Jen has a colleague at work who has been involved in a similar, successful effort at Central Baptist Church in Wayne. Like CBC, we intend to apply for an Energy Harvest Grant from the State Department of

Environmental Protection to cover a majority of the costs of the PV system. I won't go into the details of the program, but its stated intent is "to provide a stimulus for opportunities that better manage our energy resources in a way that also improves our environment, supports economic development and enhances our quality of life." A new round of funding for this program was approved by the General Assembly this past summer and because of this we feel that Ardmore Presbyterian Church stands a good chance to obtain a grant.

In order to position ourselves to be successful in obtaining state funds, we will need to demonstrate our seriousness by committing some of our own financial resources to the effort. That is why am I speaking to you today. We ask that you consider this important need as you make your stewardship pledge this fall.

If we are successful in our efforts, reducing our energy consumption will result in long-term cost savings that will more than make up for the initial funds expended. Looking at the issue more globally, the installation of a solar panel system will help reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and lead to the reduction of air pollution. I hope you agree that these are things that we should do together as God's children and stewards of the earth and I look forward to your help with this initiative.

Thank you.