

## **Are You Ready for Some Summer?**

**How many of you remember the cold days of winter?** Remember how we longed for warmer weather? Well here it is! While officially summer does not start for a few more days Americans have traditionally held that summer starts just after Memorial Day. So, welcome to another summer!

**Summer is the time that most of us take our vacations.** How many of you have a vacation in a few weeks? How many of you wish you had a vacation? This year it is estimated that Americans on average will spend \$1,600 on their summer vacations.

**Compare that to the fact that the average gift to a church weekly is \$17.** If you do the math that comes out to \$884 a year. In other words we give about half of what we spend on a vacation. What does that tell us?

Now don't get me wrong. I am all in favor of taking a vacation. I think we need that rest and relaxation. I am also not opposed to spending money on a vacation. To me that is an investment in you. Yet a vacation is a temporal thing. Can you remember right off the top of your head where you went on vacation five years ago?

I can tell you what this church did five years ago. We spent the summer doing what we do every summer, investing in the lives of children and youth. Through our Vacation Bible Schools, children's camps, student camps and mission trips we made a lasting impact for the Kingdom. We are going to do it all over again this summer!

So as our ushers come this morning to take up our morning offering why not help us reach the next generation for Christ by making a generous contribution. Have fun on your vacation this summer. But this year why not make it your goal overall to be above average and spend more on God's Kingdom yearly than you do on your vacation.