

Minute for Mission—September 10, 2023

Christians are called to live lives of gratitude. As we give thanks for all that God has given us, the same spirit of thankfulness encourages us to help others. John Knox Presbytery is again participating in a ministry to purchase and forgive medical debt. The target date is September 21. All of the churches in our Presbytery are invited to raise money to help as many families as we can escape the burden of medical debt. Those who struggle with this type of debt can have their credit rating destroyed. Many suffer the physical effects of stress and worry. Some families have even become homeless trying to pay their medical bills.

Our Presbytery will send donations to an organization called RIP Medical Debt, a leader in the area of medical debt forgiveness. Last year, the Presbytery sent \$14,245.25 to RIP Medical Debt where it grew to take care of \$1,925,734.76 of medical debt for 2,594 families. That's a lot of bang for the buck! Those whose debts have been significantly reduced or forgiven altogether receive a yellow envelope containing that good news. As you can imagine, those folks experience many emotions when they open the envelope and discover what has happened...relief, joy and gratitude. Here's what one person said in a thank-you note to RIP Medical Debt: "When I got your letter in the mail, I just cried. I am beyond touched and beyond grateful for your kindness and empathy." Offerings may be placed in the plates through next Sunday. Please make your check out to our church and mark it "RIP Medical Debt". You may also donate online by going to the Presbytery's website, jknox.org. Let's help send out a lot more of those letters!