



UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rooted. Giving. Growing.

2016 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

*"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."
~ Colossians 2:6-7*

Stewardship Moment - Crowell Little
October 18, 2015

Roots, Giving and Growing

I would like to share a few personal thoughts on this theme.

Rooted...As many of you know I grew up in UPC. My roots were formed here.

I was visiting with my 99 year old Mother this week, and I told her I was speaking about growing up in this church and asked her what I should say. She smiled and said "tell them we made you go to Sunday School"

That's probably true, but I also remember:

- * the sanctuary burning down, and how the community responded. We held worship all over campus while it was rebuilt.
- * I remember rolling skating in the new fellowship hall, the youth gatherings.
- * MY confirmation class was taught by Vance Barron!

But what I remember most was standing right there, in front of the congregation and publicly professing my faith...how proud I was to join this church.

Deep roots indeed.

Giving..

Daphne and I lived in Goldsboro when our boys were young. We were living on one salary and our giving was modest but that started to change one stewardship season. We had a guest minister, whose name I can not remember BUT I do remember his message...

He said he was so thankful that he could tithe. He told us he knew that he fell short in many ways from what the Lord wanted from him. But in tithing he could be assured that he was fulfilling what the Lord asked..10%, not 15 not 20 but 10%.

Then he challenged us to increase our pledge by 1% of our income each year until we reached 10%. Daphne and I talked , prayed about this challenge and then committed ..1% increase per year until we got there. It took several years...ok 6 to 7 years but here is what we learned. As our giving grew, so did our faith. I'm pretty sure that 1% increase did not make a big difference in our church's budget, BUT it did make a huge difference to us and our faith.

Growing...

One Sunday our minister, and I do remember his name, David Jenkins, was preaching about growing and he stated that he knew that the parents in the congregation were concerned about the physical health of our children. He knew we made sure they ate properly, saw the doctors, took their medicine and so on, but then he stopped and said” are you as concerned about their spiritual health, their spiritual growth?” That made Daphne and I think about growth in a whole new light.

Here at UPC, we are so fortunate. Through this body of Christ we have:

- * a place to nourish our roots
- * An opportunity to give and
- * The ability to grow in our faith.

What a wonderful church to be a member today, and in my case what a wonderful place to be from.

I want to publicly thank John and Ashley Wilson for their extraordinary leadership. I also want to tell you there will be openings on the stewardship committee so you wish to serve.I will offer one piece of advice...should you be on the committee next, be sure you are not absent, as I was, for the meeting where they assign stewardship speakers...