



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 - James Smith
October 11, 2015

Friends, I have something important to share with you. But be forewarned, it's kind of personal.

After all, it's Stewardship Season here at University Church. Why else would Bob and Anna allow me to speak from the pulpit?

Along with Stewardship Season comes one of my greatest fears:

"If I increase my giving to the Church for next year, will there be enough left over?"

More precisely: "Will there be enough left for me to do what I want to do?"

So, when I receive my pledge card, I don't put it in the top left-hand drawer of my desk along with the other "bills to be paid."

I do not hastily fill it out either...it's too tempting to pencil in the same amount as last year.

Rather, I keep it out in plain view – where I can see it daily. Oh, it moves around the house a little – but it's always visible somewhere.

And I start to think about the great abundances in my life...

An abundance of clean & safe water - on demand, a bounty of good & nutritious food, a comfortable home, the love of family and friends...

And this church...our church...this community of faith about which we have heard heart-felt and faithful testimonies in recent weeks: strong worship, education programs, outreach ministries, ministry of music, campus ministry. Frankly, the list goes on.

All of this abundance made possible by **God's grace**.

And I start to face this "fear of not having enough."

As I reflect on the abundance in my life, I realize that:

“Without God in my life, there is never enough; but with God in my life there will always be enough.”

Friends, as you consider your own pledge, do so with the assurance that with God in your life there will be enough – always.