



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 - Jim Baxley September 20, 2015

I love this place.

I LOVE this place.

I'm Jim Baxley, and I am standing **here** because I love University Presbyterian Church. Laura and I have been members since early 2005. Wow - more than 10 years. I like to think I had more hair when we joined...? I can't remember now...

But what I can remember? I can remember watching with such pride as Bob walked down the aisle with Jay and Ben at their baptisms. Singing Mendelssohn and Faure and Bernstein with this choir - and fabulous Wednesday evening rehearsals with Tom Brown. Getting love and support from Anna Pinckney Straight at our kitchen table during a particularly tough time. Spending the night on the floor of our neighbors the Nicholsons after our house fire (not to mention all the food and other support from the whole church family). Watching Jay and Ben grow into amazing young men through Beth's choir and Kim's PYC, and with the grace of many of you through Sunday School.

Marvelling at the grace that surrounds us all.

And that's it - isn't it? Grace always comes first.

Stewardship Moment - September 20, 2015

Bob Dunham spoke of grace two weeks ago. In the context of repentance, he said, "Sometimes grace so astonishes us that all we can do is change course." I took that one to heart - and with Bob's permission I'm going beyond the context of repentance (I hope that's theologically ok, Bob? Anna?).

You see, I believe that our response to the grace we all receive should be - must be - more than just filling out a Stewardship form. It should be in response to God's gifts - and joyful anticipation of what we know will come. That's how Laura and I think about this decision each year. Each year, we've looked back, and then, changing course, we've looked ahead, and put down a number that is more than it was last year. Even in years when it might not be clear what our means will be. And even though we know that it's never enough.

Rooted. Giving. Growing. That's the theme for this year's Stewardship Season. I can't think of a better way to express what this place means. This place of abounding grace.

Given the grace that surrounds us all - how will you respond?