

Comments by Dave and Polly Moreau October 2, 2016

When asked to speak today in this stewardship season, Polly and I began to reflect on our many years as members of this congregation. After four years of marriage, we came to Chapel Hill during the tumultuous year of 1968, both of us with strong Presbyterian backgrounds. We came with hope, but a lot of uncertainty about this community, unsettling events at the national level, and uncertain about directions that churches were going in both worship and fellowship. Amidst that uncertainty, we made a decision to join this church, and today, we rejoice in how good a decision that was.

Some of the uncertainties we had then still surround us, and time has brought many changes to the makeup of our church family, but it has been a wonderful journey. We have worshipped with you, celebrated with you, learned from you, and grieved with you. You have nurtured us during 48 of our 52 years of marriage, and our two children developed their own spiritually as they grew up in this place. For this we are very thankful.

Our blessings have been many: from our pastors, musicians, our church staff, church school teachers, elected officers, and your fellowship! But these gifts did not happen just by chance. While we have received more than we have given, it has not been a free ride. We have worked with many of you on various committees such as outreach, worship, stewardship, buildings, campus ministry, and pastoral searches. We have shared church school teaching with many of you. Maybe the greatest reward of these activities has been the fellowship of working together to further the mission of this church. We have joined with you in giving of our money in annual stewardship seasons and capital campaigns.

Our giving helps to support the very fine staff who lead and serve us, to buy educational materials and other supplies, to pay utility bills, to expand and maintain the beauty of this place, to enhance our fellowship, to help others in need, and to spread the good news of our faith. We are pleased to have been able to give, sometimes probably less than what we could have and sometimes more than we thought we could. As the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. For sure, we have reaped far more than we have sowed.

Thanks be to God.