

**Portia Christensen**  
**October 2, 2016**

As you know, our theme for this stewardship season is “see what love can do and dare.”

I am not a daring person. I would be the last person you would expect to see in the ticket line for the Millennium Force rollercoaster, or climbing up Bridal Veil Falls in Yosemite as my brother in law does, or even joining my grandchildren (upside down) on a zipline. But there are some things I dare to do.

One of the things that I dare to believe is that it is possible to live into “thy kingdom come.” By that, I mean that by freely giving our love we can begin to make possible the growth of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth right now.

Furthermore, I dare to believe that the expression of that love can make a real and lasting difference in this world.

Finally, I dare to dream about specific ways this love can be expressed.

This congregation has helped those in need by contributing more than \$200,000 through our Alternative Gift Market. You have helped Middle Eastern refugees and you have supported our missionaries as they face serious budget cuts at PCUSA . You have helped Appalachians still suffering from the economic downturn. You have helped homeless and hungry people in Chapel Hill and you have provided a loving home for handicapped children in Haiti. Now I dream about us doing more for these programs and for so many others that still wait for our help.

I won't ask you to ride a roller coaster with me but I do ask you to join me in daring to believe that love can make difference...that **our** love can make a difference.

Thy Kingdom come. Amen