

**Kara Aycock**

**October 9, 2016**

I feel like a bit of an imposter standing up here. Growing up, I was not a part of a church community. Both of my parents had emerged from childhoods spent in churches where they saw people who spoke of loving your neighbor, helping those in need, and sacrificing one's own comforts in order to help others. But, once everyone had said "Amen" and walked out the door, the actions did not live up to the rhetoric.

After years of studying, reading, and thinking about my own faith, we found UPC. Since joining the church, I have listened to sermons, participated in Bible studies, and attended women's groups all in an attempt to learn about and from these sometimes complicated stories from the Bible. My 13 years of learning has boiled down to this: We are to treat ourselves and others with love and kindness.

- When someone is hungry, we are to offer them food.
- When someone needs shelter, we are to provide it.
- When someone is hurting, we are to offer comfort.

While the lessons seem simple, they are not always easy to follow. This is what my parents saw while they were growing up and this what, frankly, I struggle with every day. But, every time I walk through these doors, I am inspired by the number of people here who turn their love and compassion into action every day.

Right now, the problems of the world feel pretty complicated. But, by giving to the stewardship campaign, we are joining together to:

- feed those who are hungry
- provide shelter to those who need homes
- And comfort those who are hurting

We are turning our love and kindness into action. It is not always easy, but it is pretty simple.

**Perry Aycock**  
**October 9, 2016**

If she is an imposter then I must be a jester... as some of you know I am still “growing up.”

I was blessed to be asked to be a part of the STEWARDSHIP committee, that time and those people continue to teach me about ALL the work UPC does here and afar...

Which led to an even deeper trust for UPC as the conduit for our gifts to better the world. Most of us feel hurried, harried or at least short on time for even the most important things... my thought was why vet other charities... this mission multiplies our gifts to feed, comfort and shelter those in need and I trust UPC.

Working with older people continually reminds me that those who live the best lives keep growing, UPC helps us grow and at times requires us to keep “growing up.”

Being here makes us pause, be still and think about what MATTERS... the RIGHT things... the BIG things...the LASTING things... for me ... “grown up things”.

Giving of ourselves and

Being a part of something larger than ourselves

Supporting this good legacy and

Teaching our children what MATTERS MOST through a living example.

NOW is our time for UPC’s sustenance and growth. AND Everyone can be happy to be a part of this community that is growing, giving and DOING more than we did the year before to better our world.

When I pause and think about my “growing up” in the coming months and years ... I feel truly HAPPY about adding time, tithes, gift and talents for UPC. When you look back at the next month or year what do you think you will feel truly happy thinking about?

Thanks for all the help with my “growing up”!