

Moment for Stewardship: Wonder  
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Every month or so I get to lead Godly Play. That's the worship for kindergarteners during the eleven o'clock service. It is an amazing worship with thoughtful, inquisitive, energetic children. One thing that I especially love about Godly Play is when, at the end of a lesson, we have a chance for wonder. We ask questions like "I wonder how the disciples felt." "I wonder what Jesus meant by that parable." "I wonder how I would respond in that situation." This approach allows the kids (and us adults) to relate to the story and open up some of the mysteries in faith. As you might imagine, the responses from our little theologians are enlightening . . . and entertaining.

The theme of the stewardship campaign this year is "See what Love can do . . . and dare!" Seeing that phrase, I couldn't help but think of our time of wonder in Godly Play. "I wonder what love can do." "I wonder what we will see if we will dare to follow."

Truth be told, this congregation—this family of faith—is already daring to see what love can do. Indeed, we are seeing it right now. Through this church we see that Love can carry volunteers to rural Appalachia, urban D.C., and storm-ravaged Haiti. Closer to home, Love can reach out to students at the University as well as families and individuals seeking shelter and a warm meal.

Given our current chapter in life, my wife Tracy and I have seen what Love can do through the children's ministries at UPC. Earlier this year all three of our boys were baptized together. I joke that we got a three-for-one discount. But in all seriousness, the value and values that our family receives through the Love of this church are immeasurable.

We've seen what Love can do in Sunday School lessons and choir practices and pre-school classrooms; we've seen it in the Advent Craft Festival and Vacation Bible School; we've seen it while reaching for that extra piece of fried chicken at Second Sunday lunch and while reaching for that next branch on the magnolia tree out front. We've seen what Love can do in the abundance of home cooked meals shortly after Andrew, our youngest son, was born.

Looking ahead, already we see this family of faith daring to see what more Love can do. Daring to offer a congregational retreat where our older boys, Carter and Ben, can connect across generations; daring to offer a dynamic confirmation process and youth activities to keep our boys engaged; daring to construct a new building to support this growing congregation.

As Tracy and I think about stewardship—about returning some of our gifts and talents—we are not repaying a debt. That would be impossible. But, we are recognizing the many gifts of Love we have been given, and trusting that the Lord will use us, our time and our money, for even more.

I can't help but wonder what else is in store. Where the spirit is leading.

I wonder what the Lord will call us to do next. I wonder what the Lord is calling us to do right now.

I wonder what we will see if we dare to follow.

I wonder.