



Our Stewardship Journey

by Myra and Lee Scott



Myrah and I are thrilled to be able to participate and give our time and resources for this very exciting and much needed project in the life of the University Presbyterian Church.

Our stewardship goes back over 50 years, and, prior to our marriage in 1962, we were both

taught to serve by giving our time, talents, and money to our church and its ministries. Even though we have had and still have differences of opinions, we have consistently agreed to support our church generously. We feel that we have been blessed beyond our greatest expectations by God's grace and that it is our responsibility as well as our joy to share our blessings.

Supporting the Faith Forward Campaign is one of the highlights of our stewardship, and we have prayed and talked about our responsibilities for this campaign for a long time. Since our first discussion about how much to pledge, the amount has increased ten-fold. Thanks be to God for his guidance in reaching our decision!

We have struggled with the idea of giving now rather than through our will but decided, with God's nudging, that since we so enjoy worshiping with our church family, watching class after class of children grow up in our programs, listening to the exceptional music presented by adult and youth choirs, and always hearing an outstanding message from the pulpit every Sunday, we would totally support the Faith Forward Campaign now and help provide for the present and future needs for the continued success and growth of these programs and people. We have asked ourselves this question: If not now, when?

In closing we would like to share a thought from the poem "A Life That Matters" by Michael Josephson. This poem was sent to us by a friend right before his death.

"What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built; not what you got but what you gave."

If Our Walls Could Talk

by Anna Pinckney Straight

Originally, the proclamation came from Isaiah (56). "Thus says the Lord God... my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." It's part of a passage where the people are being encouraged to pursue justice and to follow God.

Later, we're told in Matthew, Mark, and Luke that Jesus called upon these words to remind people about what God intended for the nature of the temple: not a marketplace, but a place of prayer, justice, and hope.

As UPC is a downtown congregation, these words have a place of particular importance for us. How do we live them out? By opening our doors and sharing space with:

- **English as a Second Language classes**
- **Community groups that use our space for meetings, workspace for service projects**
- **Countless Bible studies and meetings, all deliberating and discerning the will of God**
- **Students that find a safe place to rest, study, and fellowship anytime of the day or night**
- **University Presbyterian Preschool, where children are taught the joy of learning and community**
- **Countless individuals who stop by and find a place to rest, a listening ear, and a cool drink of water**

If our walls could talk, they would tell countless stories of real life, substantial faith, and the places where these two intersect.

UPC takes outreach seriously, and this place is our physical outreach to the community. I know of several organizations working within Chapel Hill that struggle to find good meeting space. We would love to host them, to have their work join the stories told by the building, but we cannot accommodate them. The inn is full.

Faith Forward, the opportunity before us, is about making more room in the inn and living into the words of Isaiah and Jesus.



Wear Your Wristband!

On Sunday, October 21, children, youth, and adults attending church school were given wristbands emblazoned with the Faith Forward logo. The wristbands are intended to be a tangible reminder of our individual commitments to prayerful giving during this campaign. Wearing them in church, surrounded by fellow church members wearing

them, reminds us that we are part of a community committed to moving our faith forward together. Wristbands will be available in the narthex on Sunday. So make sure you get one and wear it proudly!

Vision Awareness Gatherings

Thanks for Coming!

Curious, interested members of our congregation attended the first two Vision Awareness Gatherings held in Fellowship Hall. John Scott opened the meeting Thursday night with prayer, and the group then enjoyed a delicious dinner of chili, salad, cornbread, and pie before engaging in a spirited game of UPC Trivia. Following Trivia, the group had the opportunity to watch the excellent, nine-minute DVD prepared by our own John Wilson, which vividly explained why our church needs this campaign. Jay Klompaker then used a PowerPoint presentation to show how the new addition would blend with the current building and yet increase our usable space dramatically. He also explained how the new addition will make up only about 25% of the \$4.2 million campaign goal. Improvements to our existing building and its infrastructure, site improvements, furnishings, contingencies, and a campaign tithes make up the remainder. Lots of good questions followed, and the group seemed to welcome the opportunity to learn more about the project. John and Meredith McClure-Scott took the group through their Stewardship Journey, and John Scott closed the meeting with prayer.



Friday morning, another group of interested UPC members assembled to play UPC Trivia, enjoy a breakfast of quiche, fruit salad, muffins, and juice and coffee, and learn more about the Faith Forward Capital Campaign. D. G. Martin opened and closed the meeting with prayer, Jay Klompaker once again led the discussion, and Jill Mayer shared her Stewardship Journey. As with Thursday night's group, the discussion was lively and interesting. Members of both groups

thanked the presenters and organizers of the two Gatherings for their efforts and timely, broad-ranging information about the campaign.



Iona, Scotland

by Ruth Moose

Who made the walls?

Who made the stones?

Who made the moss that grows under the stones? The green, green moss that grays underneath?

Who made the earth

lying soft and sure

under the gray green moss

that lies under the stones

that made the wall?

But most of all

who, who whose

idea

was this all?

Where does the sky end?

Where do clouds begin

or go when they are gone?

And the waters?

long, low and deep

as the sky is blue

that touches the green

hills rising up,

resting below.

We are the green hills,

the sky, the rocks, the wall,

the first idea after all.

UPC Choir Space Needs

Beth's Perspective

As I describe the typical scene by the Choir Room on Sunday mornings, it makes me smile! Everyone is so gracious about the chaos. The Chancel Choir tries to spread out into the hallway, steps, my office, and the Church Office to find a moment of peace before worship. Parents are laughing and joking with each other and the children. Members move pass the madness with a calm nod to us.

But, anyone who has tried to maneuver the hallway by the Choir Room when the Junior or Children's Choirs are singing KNOWS firsthand the traffic jam problem that occurs when Church School ends! Don't even think about slipping into that women's bathroom near the Choir Room! We have children, parents, and Chancel Choir members everywhere! I feel like the Old Woman in the Shoe! In the hallway parents are trying to hold up the swaying temporary choir robe stand so the choir robes don't collapse to the floor (they have!). Children are pulling their choir robes on over their heads, and parents are trying to help hang up their child's sweater or coat. The Chancel Choir is attempting to stay out of the way and enjoy their coffee and pastry in the hall (but someone invariably forgets to robe before 10:45 a.m. and has to squeeze into the Junior or Children's Choirs' rehearsal!). Then add the layer of members just trying to get through the hallway!

I am happy we have the problem of lots of enthusiastic singers at UPC! That said, I will really enjoy a little less chaos right before I lead a group of children into the sanctuary to lead the music in worship. Yes, I AM looking forward to the new addition of dedicated Choir space at UPC!

Thank you for the support the congregation has unfailingly given the Music Ministry at UPC. It's been my great pleasure and joy to serve this congregation since 1986! Faith Forward!



FAQ's and For More Information

How to Watch the Campaign Video Online

Hopefully you were able to attend one of the many Vision Awareness Gatherings, which were designed to provide information about the Faith Forward campaign and answer your questions. The gatherings also included the opportunity to view the wonderful campaign video produced by John Wilson, which you can now watch online on the campaign's blog:

<http://faithforwardupc.wordpress.com/>

We Have Also...

- > Produced a "FAQ" document, which is available throughout the church, along with previous editions of the newsletter
- > Put information on the UPC Facebook page, which you can join at <https://www.facebook.com/upcch>

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“When he asked a third stonecutter what he was doing, the young man pointed to a foundation a short distance away, and excitement and passion shone from his eyes, and he said, ‘Me? I’m helping to build a cathedral to the glory of God!’”

From an October 28, 2012,
sermon by Bob Dunham

**Commitment Sunday (Nov.18),
Campaign Celebration Luncheon (Nov. 18 @ 12.15 p.m., everyone welcome),
First Fruits Sunday (Dec. 2) & What Follows**

A Message from Your Follow Up Directors: Jay and Pamela Smith, and Matt and Linda Arnold

Following Commitment Sunday (November 18 - a **Campaign Celebration Luncheon will follow the 11 a.m. service**), the Follow Up Directors will enlist a team responsible for keeping the Faith *Forward* campaign active and alive among the congregation throughout the 36 months of the giving period. The Follow Up Team will also be responsible for introducing new members to the capital campaign and encouraging their financial commitments.

In late November, the congregation will receive materials about First Fruits Sunday, to be held on December 2, at which time the congregation will be invited to begin its giving for the next three years. Shortly after this date, the three year Follow Up phase begins, during which the congregation will be informed regularly with financial updates, newsletters, announcements, and other reminders. Members will be encouraged to bring a worthy first gift toward their total pledge. Special giving envelopes will be provided.

According to our campaign advisor, most churches report receiving 10-15% of the total amount pledged on the First Fruits Sunday, but we all hope to exceed that percentage.

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the fruits of all your produce.”