

STEWARDSHIP 2019

October 28, 2018

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In mid-June I was approached by a member of the Stewardship Task Force and asked if I'd be willing to share WHAT, WHY and HOW Northridge has personally impacted our lives and specifically why we pledge/share our time, talent and dollars. An easy assignment for most of us...right? However, as I began to reflect on the assignment, I was filled with great pride, emotion and joy knowing that Northridge has for years and continues to enrich each of our lives in so many ways!

This morning "*I love to tell the story*" of WHAT attracted Dennis and myself to Northridge and WHY we continuously feel an enormous sense of commitment and gratitude to continuously share our time, talents and dollars.

Some of you may recall that about nine plus years ago, I first came to Northridge on a beautiful spring morning to vote in a primary election. This was just

a few months after experiencing a significant loss, the death of my mother. As I walked through the columbarium, I heard a familiar voice encouraging me to visit the church....it was the distinct voice of my mother. A bit surprised, I entered the narthex and was vigorously greeted by a table of smiling Northridge women who promptly offered a donut, cookies and coffee after I voted! Who can say no to that combination, right?

After voting, I stopped by the table and spoke for a few minutes to this friendly group of women who inquired where I lived and then readily invited me to visit some Sunday. I shared I that had grown up Presbyterian, although had not been an “active Presbyterian” in some time. The combination of my mom’s voice when entering the columbarium garden and the warm welcome; not to mention that chocolate cake donut was unexpected, overwhelming and impactful!

A few days later, Dennis and I found ourselves at an 11AM service, listening to a remarkable sermon, surrounded by great music and genuinely friendly

folks who welcomed us both as guests and encouraged us to come back. We did and haven't stopped coming back...

Northridge continues to be just what we both were seeking....an inviting, respectful, welcoming and inspirational faith community. We are humbled and grateful by the genuineness, diversity and hardworking committed members and staff that make Northridge so special!

Being part of a faith community that gives so much to others through mission, fellowship and opportunities to learn and serve makes it easy for us to want to give back and have consciously done so since becoming members in late 2010.

Like so many of you, Dennis and I have gladly shared our time and talents, by co-facilitating both adult and youth Sunday school programs, serving on the Session and Deacons, working with many of you on various committees and task forces, vacation bible school, involvement in dinner clubs, the Lakewood 4th of July activities, being lay readers and ushers when asked. In a church this size, there is something for everyone to become involved with as

your skills and time allow. For me personally, it's also opened opportunities to become involved in two mission supported local organizations as a board member.

We willingly participate in annual stewardship programs and most recently the capital building campaign – WHY - to ensure a legacy for those leaders and saints who came before us and shared so much for Northridge. They can rest assured that we will continue that legacy through our personal sharing and involvement.

At the same time, we've been blessed to meet and become acquaintances and friends with a fun-loving, inspirational and committed group of folks....and for that we are genuinely and eternally grateful.

WHAT motivates us to share time, talents and dollars...it's both obvious and intuitive that we want to give back to a community that continues to enrich our lives while serving others!

I encourage each of you to “get involved and share” in whatever ways you feel led and to accept the challenge to support our amazing faithcommunity!HOW –I invite you to consider making a pledge of your time, talent, and treasure on Sunday, November 11th. Through your generous support, Northridge will continue to serve and support others and remain an inviting, supportive and inspirational home for each of us and those yet to join us!