



Telling Our Stories – Celebration Sunday
October 23, 2011

Did you ever ask yourself why you come to church? As I prepared my thoughts to speak this morning, somehow I kept coming back to the question, “Why do I come to First Church? And why do we give to the church?”

I don't mean why you came today. On any given Sunday, our motivation is probably a mix of habit, commitments, a sense of duty and other things. What I mean is: Why do we keep coming, week after week, year after year?

For me, I find something here in these rooms that I don't find anywhere else. And it's something I need. What I find in this sanctuary and surrounding rooms is a sense of leaving the real world at the door and entering into another place. It's a place where we worship and enjoy fellowship with a strong common bond. It's a place where we can live out and grow our faith together. Where we can speak of truths we just don't talk about out there in the real world. It's a place where lives are transformed. We see it in not only in the youth of the church, but also in the adults. We feel it in ourselves.

I cannot imagine my life without my faith and this church. If work and play, even family and service, were all there were, life would feel empty. But my faith and my worship at this church, in all its forms, reminds me that that's not all there is. It reminds me that we have a loving God and, whatever our pains, struggles and sorrows, there is a plan and we are a part of it. For me, this is a source of comfort.

But, I don't know about you, I am forgetful. I need to keep coming back each Sunday to be reminded of these truths. At First Church, I find comfort and inspiration in our worship. And some of my most rewarding times have been in small groups. It is there I have found my faith expanded and challenged most.

I and I are proud to support First Church. We are proud to take a small part in the many good things that happen here. And this year, as we make our pledge, we have a sense that we are giving not just to the church we have known. We are excited about the ideas and plans that the Strategic Planning Committee has in store. We have a sense that we are taking part in a new adventure as this church adapts to the changing world around us.

I couldn't imagine my life without this place.

- Mark Scully