

Addie Morrison Stewardship Testimony  
Sunday, October 2, 2011

Good Morning. My name is Addie Morrison. Our family has been members of this church for almost 40 years.....in fact, my husband, Harold, grew up and had his faith nurtured here and we were married here so it was natural that we would return to this church when we were transferred back to Chicago.

However, those ties could not have been strong enough to keep us here had we not found the commitment and passion for mission that Harold and I wanted for our four daughters. My father always reminded my brother and me that “to whom much is given, much is expected!” And my grandfather, the long-time pastor of the Westfield Presbyterian Church in New Jersey, required that the mission budget at least equal that spent on the congregation’s internal needs.

Several weeks ago, I agreed to speak about my passion for mission and outreach and how this church’s joy of giving has always been contagious! It is fortuitous that I am here THIS morning, so with your indulgence, I would like to digress a second. I believe that stewardship and outreach come in many forms and that is what makes this church so strong! In the past week or so, Harold and I have been the recipients of our love, your prayers, and your hugs, as you have given so much support to us. For that we are deeply grateful! I have wondered how, many times, what others do without a church such as ours and have reflected on just what makes you, individually, and our congregation, collectively, so very special. It is simply your joy...the pure joy...you take in giving and doing for others whether it is right here at home or as far away as Tanzania!

Through the years, I became more involved in Mission, with co-moderator Jerry Fox. He always encouraged me to think creatively about how to stretch our time and dollars so we could accomplish more. I was also fortunate to be able to go on a “Come and See” Mission trip with Barbara Nagel and church leaders from around the country to the Middle East in 2000. We were able to gain valuable insight on how our mission dollars could be used. After 9/11, I was able to go to

New York City and join with Brick Presbyterian Church to visit sites where we could be of most help. And after Katrina our church formed a committee to be sure that we responded promptly, but carefully. We then helped the Ocean Springs, Mississippi Presbyterian Church recover from major flooding.

Those experiences were good for me since my own focus is on the great need right here in Lake County. Yes, 1<sup>st</sup> Church members and friends can be found in Chicago, Waukegan, North Chicago and all the way to Africa. Our legacy is that we respond, when and where needed, always giving generously of our time and dollars.

During the last three years, the Mission Committee has refocused from purely geographical areas to areas of need...namely, Education, Evangelism and Relief & Development. They have combined the Mission dollars from Rummage, Presbyterian Women, the all-church auction and the operating budget in order to make a greater difference for over 50 agencies. Volunteers can be seen loading trucks for the Salvation Army, the Cancer Society and 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian in Chicago after each rummage sale! I would encourage each of you to continue to visit our agencies wherever they are to see firsthand how our dollars and talents have helped.

My vision for this church that we continue to be a Beacon of Light and Hope radiating out from the corner of Deerpath and Sheridan as we have for the past 150 years!! I expect that light to shine even brighter going into the future.

Thank you for all you do and all you are. We are truly blessed to be part of this faith community.