

# Why do I Love This Church?

A Mission & Ministry Moment: Stewardship

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Why do I love this church & why do I think it is important to give money to our church?

I first feel in love with Kirkland Congregational Church for its deep historical roots here on the Eastern Shore of Lake Washington. I love the story of the church bell – a gift from Sarah Jane Houghton. I love the story of Peter Kirk's dream to found a steel mill & community here. We have Sarah Jane Houghton, Peter Kirk and many other faithful servants to thank for establishing this church building and community.

The roots of KCC remind me of my Pilgrim ancestors who travelled from England to Holland and then to America to start the Congregational church here. At Pilgrim Firs camp, the cabins are named after several of my ancestors. Cabin #2 is the John Robinson cabin. John Robinson was pastor to the Pilgrims and I'm told is my 13<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather. As the Pilgrims were departing for America John Robinson prayed these words: "God has yet more truth and light to shine forth from His Holy Word." This quotation is the basis for the "God is still speaking campaign" of the National United Church of Christ.

God is still speaking in Kirkland, WA here at KCC.

All are welcome here – God is Still Speaking  
Tent City 4 – God is Still Speaking  
Earth Ministries – God is Still Speaking  
Referendum 71 – God is Still Speaking  
Emergency Feeding Program – God is Still Speaking  
Open & Affirming – God is Still Speaking  
Progressive Christianity – God is Still Speaking

These are the reasons I love this church!

Now why do I feel it is important to give money to our church? Aside from the obvious reason – I am church treasurer and depend on your pledges to pay the bills...

I have to admit over the past several years, I have been afraid to fill out a pledge. Not so for 2010! I need to reconsider what is important. I need to realize how much I am truly blessed during these days of economic scarcity and uncertainty. I need to remind myself that I have been blessed.

I want to close with a favorite doxology:

We give thee but thine own  
What e'er the gift may be  
All that we have is thine alone  
A trust, O Lord from thee.  
Amen