

January 6, 2020

Dear Session and FPC,

It is with great appreciation and pride that I had the opportunity to serve on Session as your Finance Elder for six years and as Stewardship Elder many years back. When I was asked, or called, to serve the church in this capacity I was as busy with work and family as the next person. It was easy to say no. However, I wanted to deepen my relationship with Christ beyond Sunday morning worship and simple prayer. I wanted to feel Christ working in me. The results...my spiritual life grew and I felt the Lord's presence more abundantly in my daily life. I felt blessed!

The bible tells us to be "Christ-like in our ways" and a "Servant follower". Serving on Session and in other capacities has given me the opportunity to serve FPC, but more importantly, to serve the Lord...to give of myself and to chip away at my selfish ways. Serving on Session and volunteering my time and talent exposed me to fellowship with other members and provided a spiritual growth in me through these relationships. I truly believe a church is the strongest, not through its numbers, not through its finances, but through fellowship and learning and serving with others. God is present and shows Himself to us when two or more get together to worship and serve Him.

My hope and prayers for our church is every single member experiences Christ's presence in them by serving Him in some capacity, by giving of themselves, by becoming uncomfortable in their faith and by trying new ways to honor the Lord. When a person "steps out" through service they come closer to Christ and together we become a force multiplier of good in our world.

"We are made on purpose, for a purpose" by God. If we seek His purpose for each of us we will find happiness, fulfillment, forgiveness and salvation.

Very Blessed,
Bill Baker

PS. As your passionate outgoing Finance Elder I have experienced first hand and seen in others, the path to a deeper relationship with Christ is also found by putting Christ first in your finances. I challenge you to try it. It works, I promise. The Lord promises!