



*Rooted in*  
Love

*They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.*

Psalm 1:3a



## Leader Statement

by Moderator Katy Paterson

As many of you know I have very deep roots in our church. I was baptized, confirmed, and married here as were many of my family members. My grandchildren are now sixth generation members. This means I have many, many significant memories of our church. Obviously, the rites performed in our church for my family and me such as baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and funerals stand out. However, I'm unable to choose just one memory.

I'd like to share some of the memories I've had in the past two and a half years while I've served as second vice moderator, vice moderator, and now as moderator. The wonderful people I've met and the interesting meetings I've attended are very important to me. I've always known we were blessed with an unusually talented group of lay people. As I see these people stepping forward to volunteer around the church whether by providing much needed labor or by contributing their vast knowledge to solve problems and offering professional advice, I've been in awe. Often these lay people provide both hands on and technical skills. Some people continue to provide skills learned by education or in a career. For others it may just be a hobby or something they're interested in. If we, as a church, had to pay for all the talent we get for free from our lay members, we'd go broke.

An example of our multi-talented members occurred recently when the main water main broke at church. Some of us were just cheap labor picking up bags and boxes of treasures deciding whether the things in them could be salvaged, were worth trying to salvage, or needed to be pitched. Other members moved furniture and pulled up soaked carpeting. Others knew who to call to start the cleaning process. Probably most important were the members who could offer professional advice as to how to fix the problem.

I've also learned so much about our church by attending meetings. I'd never served on many of the teams and continue to be amazed by the great things they do.

As we start the nomination process in a few months, please consider volunteering for a team. It will enrich your life. We will be displaying posters in the next few weeks to give you an idea of what each team does.

We're also privileged to have a hard-working, knowledgeable, caring staff that I've gotten to know better these past few months. Together our staff and volunteers make a great team. However, as wonderful as these people and teams are we, as a church, still have bills to pay. Not only do we need your pledges to budget for expenses such as salaries, utilities, music, missions, maintenance work, office and cleaning supplies, etc., but for emergencies such as the recent water main break. We are blessed to have a beautiful, historic building that often shows its age.

Your pledges allow us to put together an accurate budget. I urge you to think about how much our church means to you as you make your pledge.