



Rooted in Love

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

Psalm 1:3a



Stewardship Moment

by Doug Phillips

I grew up in Freeport. My twin brother and I were the first to be Baptized in the brand new St. John's UCC Church. The previous church had burned down because of a Christmas tree catching on fire. Yes, they used real candles on trees in the 50's. I always felt at home and connected at my church. My grandparents belonged, my four sisters, and two brothers and my parents along with cousins, aunts and uncles. I sang in the youth and adult choir in my teens. I was confirmed and belonged to the boy scout Troop at the church.

I came to Rockford when I was seventeen to start my government sponsored apprenticeship with Volkswagen of America. I traveled back home on the weekends for a while and attended My church. I slowly started to skip Sunday worship - too tired, too lazy, etc. I had lost the connection.

Then I met my girlfriend, eventually my wife. She is Lutheran by birth so we tried a few different churches. I did get involved in the choir and building and grounds committee. Never felt like home. John and Marge Maynard invited Karen and I to come and try 2nd Con in 1996. We came in 1997 and we were welcomed like old friends. Our daughters were young and enjoyed Miss Becky's youth program. I joined the choir and did three tours with the music team.

I have always believed that giving to the church to support our wonderful missions that we support as a church community, are the very definition of stewardship. Whether we give of our time, talents, or money. I feel the presence of God every time I enter this building. I feel like I belong! I am amazed by all the friends I have made here. I also see the presence of God in all of them. Please be generous with your gifts whatever they may be so we can continue our mission and our Downtown presence for generations to come.