

Stewardship Testimonial by Nancy Kemmerer
March 5, 2023

My name is Nancy Kemmerer and I'd like to take a few minutes to share my story. I had wonderful loving parents. They were hardworking people. They were always ready to help a neighbor or friend in need. Mother saved dimes in a card for March of Dimes, and someone came to the door to collect. They did not attend church and the idea of making a pledge was a foreign concept. This became my normal.

Fast forward 40 years to 1997. Stan was living in Boston and I in San Francisco. We got together for dinner when he was visiting the Bay Area. I'm going to skip what happened next.... When we decided to marry, we knew we had to work out a budget. Our previous marriages had left us in the Poor House. But we were in love.

So, as we're working on our budget, Stan says he wants to tithe. What, are you nuts? I could see though this was crucially important to him. We worked the numbers again and decided we would start with 2% and as we paid off a bill, we would raise it.

And that is precisely what we did. Working together, in 3 years, we were out of debt, tithing and purchased the home we live in today.

But something pretty amazing happened within me. I realized how fortunate I am to have the incredible life I live, a life of privilege. I began to find joy in being able to share with others thru charitable giving.

Fast forward to 2018. I entered USH for the first time. I read the 7 Principles and sources and realized I was among soul mates. USH was the most welcoming church I had ever attended. I had a green name tag on my very first visit. {BTW, people seem to be really friendly if you have a green name tag.}

We have so much to be proud of at USH. David Newton says the infrastructure is the best it's ever been. What about those new toilets. Toni Gold is working on getting us on the Registry for Historic Buildings. I visualize news reporters and an Open House when that is finalized.

Our amazing Worship Associates, led by Sue Smolski have provided us with exceptional Sunday services. Diana Cipriano and staff allow viewers to zoom in from home.

Pizza and a Movie Night is terrific. \$15 gets you salad, pizza, beverage, and ice cream with Janice Newton's homemade hot fudge sauce. Don't tell anyone. But I would pay that just for the hot fudge. Then we watch a wonderful movie and stimulating discussion.

UU SpiritLife created by Judy Robbins and David Gonci meets via zoom one Saturday per month. We discuss a variety of topics, with an emphasis on our spirituality. It's a collaboration with UUSE and Fern St.

Lunch Bunch, a brown bag affair where we get to know each other better. Lu Giamatteo conducts a gentle yoga class on Mondays at 10:00. I also belong to the Caring network chaired by Janice Newton. She has done an incredible job in the absence of a minister. Where do Janice and David get all that energy.

Judy Sullivan and the Social Justice Committee does an incredible job reaching out to the community.

I've only scratched the surface of the wonderful things happening at USH and the many volunteers who keep things happening.

So, I for one am going to raise my pledge this year. I want to do whatever I can to keep USH strong and thriving.

However, now that I have retired, I have less money to pledge, so I am further committing to leaving a donation to the USH Endowment in my will.

Thank you! Nancy Kemmerer