

August 7, 2026



To the Church in Tuscaloosa

Dear Friends in Christ,

The date of this letter is also our 50th wedding anniversary. I mention that because if it had not been "For the Love of FPC" the early years could have been difficult. In our early 20's, and many miles away from parents, we struggled to find a balance in our relationship. What was missing? We found it at First Presbyterian Church in September of 1977. The outpouring of love of so many Saints, the joy of finding like-minded people our age to share our questions, challenges, and joys, and the presence of the Holy Spirit grounded us in faith which made our Lord the priority.

Each 11:00 o'clock service on Sunday when I sit down in my normal spot, aisle seat, 2nd row, left tier, I look around and my heart smiles. So many memories. The Baptismal Font reminds me not only of my own Baptism in another place, time and story, but also the Baptism of my children and all three grandchildren. I see the names on the stained-glass windows and remember those people and what they meant to the church and me personally. I watch the congregation walk in and wave and smile to friends and remember clearly those faces that no longer enter the sanctuary, but whose spirit fills my heart. I see young people now grown with children and remember their participation in Sr. High Sunday School, which I was honored to lead for several decades.

Each Sunday as I await the announcements, I keep a look out for my Vicki to enter the choir loft. I sit close to be close to her. I listen for her angelic voice which moves me emotionally and spiritually. I recall most Sunday's when I hear her voice. I remember a duet she sang with a young man from our church many years ago which made me cry.

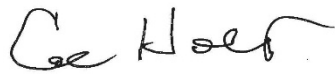
Each of you have YOUR story and reasons to Love FPC. It is personal, it is emotional, it is spiritual, and it is joyful. You see, the church experience is what fulfills your life. It has been my experience that it is not material gain, possessions, or power that give you peace; in fact, they create chaos and heartbreak.

In the Sundays to come during Stewardship season, I ask that you look around the church and see what you are thankful for and what moves you emotionally. Walk through the columbarium and read the names of loved ones or ones that affected your life. Stop and just look around at the beautiful building that helps make our services meaningful. Watch the people who are your friends or visitors that are looking for what you found. The church IS the people.

My dear friends, thank you for making a difference in my family's life. As you enter and exit the church, look for places where your story exists. Feel the Holy Spirit move within you as you envision a moment in time where your heart beats a little faster and your soul felt at peace. Let those precious memories and the knowledge that there are so many more to come guide you to make a pledge to the church "For the Love of FPC".

"For the Love of FPC" Stewardship Campaign will launch Congregation – wide on September 1st with our Dedication Day on **September 20th**. You will receive a Pledge Card and much more information in the days to come, but if you are ready to make your pledge today, you may do so using the QR Code found below, or visit: <https://shorturl.at/5Zgnf>

I look forward to hearing your stories,



Cal Holt
Stewardship Chair



QR Code