

All the way back in the late 1960's I was baptized as a child at HBUMC. Today, more than fifty years later along with my wife, Tammy and children Clarke and Anna, we continue to grow in our faith at HBUMC. I have experienced this church in all phases of my life. First as a child in the elementary school department, then as a youth attending JOY class and later in the adult Sunday School classes. My children are the third generation in our family to call HBUMC our church home. Some may ask why?

It is certainly not for lack of other options in Raleigh. It is because the HBUMC church family is connected. I can attend any Sunday morning and still see my JOY class leaders Becky Brown, Janet and Wes Chesson and many others. HBUMC is simply special. We have wonderful facilities that allow all ages to learn in a caring and loving classroom. The church members who volunteer their time to teach our very youngest devote their Sundays in a way that shows commitment and compassion. Our pastors teach bible study classes for adults who want to continue to learn about the teaching of Christ. We have mission programs for youth and adults that are local such as SLAM or all the way to another country. So why does my family keep coming to HBUMC? Where else can you go during the week and every Sunday and see people with smiles on their face and a receptive welcoming hug. We are all part of a church family. That connected family keeps us together and keeps us continuing to learn in our faith journey.

To have all of this requires the members of HBUMC to be financial stewards of our church. Quite simply without the financial contributions to the annual fund and our endowments we will not be able to offer to the next generation of HBUMC members the experiences and blessings that we and those before us received. That is one of the reasons we financially give back to the church. So that children who are baptized today can experience a life time of fellowship at HBUMC. Please join me on Commitment Sunday, October 29th in making a financial commitment for the next generation.

Kenneth Haywood

