

Why We Give

We were married in 1991. It was a second marriage for both of us, and we had a new mortgage, teenagers, and all the money worries and other stress, along with the joys, that go along with those things.

Why we joined Sardis

Right after we were married Jerry's brother died following a long illness. Members of his brother's church family were always there in the hospital, praying with us and encouraging us; taking care of us like a family. I said, "Jerry, I want that for us." And we found it here at Sardis. The first time we visited worship we were so warmly greeted that we didn't even try any other churches.

We made a leap of faith and began tithing. Even through the ups and downs of self-employment, the money's always been there somehow.

We pretty much never miss a Sunday in worship. Dr. Kort can look out and see us in a pew every Sunday! For us, worship just sets the tone for the week. It's the one hour of the week that is exclusively for God. He has all of me then.

Why we give to Sardis

When we support the church we're thinking about all the places our money is really going. We are really involved with Room in the Inn, so we're especially proud that Sardis does so much for our homeless neighbors. This church really sets the standard for being not the biggest church, but one of the giving-est churches. RITI has made me see that people without a home are just like us, just without a job, or with some bad circumstances, or with some bad choices. We trust Sardis to use our money well; we're very confident that our money is being well spent and well used.

On tithing

We remember Dr. Kort saying in a sermon that tithing is something you can work towards as a goal. So it's OK if you're not yet at ten percent—you can increase your percentage every year until you reach your goal. Well, that's what we did. Eventually we saw that we were halfway there and said to ourselves, "Let's do it." We made the leap of faith and began tithing. Even through the ups and downs of self-employment, the money's always been there somehow.

We have learned to live our life so the money is available for us to tithe. The church is depending on us to be able to do its mission, and we're a family, so we want to support it. We're not rich, but we don't want for anything; we're better off than we expected to be. Living our lives so that we can tithe has truly made it possible for us to give joyfully, and made our lives so much more joyful.

Kathy & Jerry Cathey

