

Why We Give

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence. —1 John 3:16-19

For us, faith is in our actions more than it is our words. We had different upbringings when it came to church—while Suzanne was raised in a Baptist family and was in church three days a week, Jeff was raised “on the golf course.” When we got married we wanted to make church a part of our lives together.

We moved to Charlotte in 1994, when our children, Courtney and Zachary, were small. We were looking for a church that put the love of God into action. We wanted somewhere with a strong music program, great programs for our kids as they grew up, somewhere family- and mission-oriented. Sardis was a perfect fit.

In the time we've been at Sardis we've tried to put the scripture above from 1 John into practice in our lives, and Sardis has given us lots of opportunities to do that. Suzanne has served on lots of committees at Sardis, been in the hand bell choir, and been a member of a Mustard Seed Group. Jeff is also in a Mustard Seed Group, and has stayed involved with youth as a Middle School advisor, as well as traveling on three different high school mission trips, and has arguably played more church softball than just about anyone else alive (though he says Wayne Docherty and Tom Meleney have him beat on that count!).

Today our kids are pretty much all grown up (except for Jeff, who doesn't plan to grow up). Sardis really has become like a family for us. We are so grateful to have this place to worship, serve, and support one another as the body of Christ in Charlotte.

That's why we pledge to Sardis, and ask you to join us in pledging your financial commitment to this church. These are challenging times, no question—but God has blessed us, and we want to share that blessing. We do “see our brother in need,” and know that through our giving to Sardis, we “belong to the truth” and can “set our hearts at rest in his presence.”

Suzanne & Jeff Weston

