

The reason I remain involved in church today at Grace goes back to Midway Presbyterian Church in New Zion, SC. My fondest memories there are as a youth in the 1940's. One time I interrupted my mother's circle meeting by bringing Billy, my pet goat, into our house. One time we made a huge bonfire and had a wiener and marshmallow roast. We used coat hangers and sticks to do the roasting. Some were more roasted than others. After our devotional we played games. Just being together as young people united by our trust in God's love left us all uplifted and inspired to continue God's work. We were in need of a new minister and had a congregational meeting to elect one. My father was a ruling elder and on the nominating committee. When the votes were counted, there were three "no" votes. They wanted a unanimous decision. Unbeknownst to the congregation, the three no votes were from me and two of my friends, because we wanted and felt we needed a younger, energetic minister who could relate better to the youth. Even with some pressure, we did not back down. We were proud that God gave us the opportunity to vote the way we thought God was leading. I encourage the youth at Grace to take ownership of their beliefs and their church. Keep getting together to develop your friendships which will last for years to come. Always feel free to express yourself and vote your conscience.

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