

I am a lifelong Presbyterian with ancestry tracing to the Mayflower. I began attending Grace over 34 years ago while the sanctuary was still being built and services were held in Wheelus Hall. I remember a bride requesting that we pray for the side stain glass windows to be installed in time for her wedding. I had never prayed for windows before and was so pleased when the prayers worked. One day a member (John Shockey) leaned over my shoulder in the pews and asked if it was about time I joined this church, after attending as a visitor for a couple of years. I remember praying for a young nurse who decided to enter the seminary. How blessed are we that she decided to return home to be our pastor!

I was blessed to have met and married David Jasper in this church in 1990. We baptised our son Sean in 1992 (the same day that Dwight Nichols and his son Austin were baptized) and our daughter Stephanie in 1996 at Grace. We celebrated the life of my beloved father-in-law J. Dave Jasper in 2012, too. I was blessed to participate in the Stephen Ministry training, serve as an Elder (clerk of session), attend many retreats, pilgrimage, small group bible studies, and served in other positions and classes during the years.

My favorite way to contribute at the church has been to welcome everyone at the doors. There is nothing better than having a door opening before you and being welcomed into a building! My second favorite thing is to give and receive hugs. Hugs fill me up with God's love! Grace has blessed me with the opportunity to share both! Grace is a part of my family and I count most of you as my trusted friends. The love and support is almost tangible. I feel blessed to know each and every one of you.

Linda Jasper