

All of us are members of this church –*including* the kids. I am a member of Calvary Church all by myself. I am in the bulletin because I am an acolyte and I can share *my* talents like playing piano. And today I am going to talk to you from *my* perspective and tell you why this church is important to me.

There are a lot of things that are important and special to me in this church, and when I was thinking about this, a few memories stood out to me.

On the past cleaning day, I was given the job of dusting the molding. I started near those doors [motion to front doors] and was working around counter-clockwise from there. About halfway through, because of all the intricate molding and the work that must have been put into making it, it hit me that “Wow, we’re really lucky to have this building.” I’ve noticed it before, but all of a sudden I saw the church in a whole different way. Then I started looking at other things that the building had. I saw the high ceiling as a steeple, not as just a really high ceiling, and I saw the path that was painted onto the floor with green shining paint instead of random lines curving in, and then out. I saw the wildflowers in the stained glass when I used to look at them as little blotches of color on the floor and chairs.

Last year when we decorated the church for Christmas, a bunch of people gathered to pick out Christmas trees at Steins and haul them to church in Don’s pick-up truck. It’s really pretty magical to see the church go from this to a forest of glittering Christmas trees, ready for Christmas Day, and see all these people gathered here to help do it.

Now, even though we weren’t really in a church service these times, we were still in the church doing these things. I think it’s really special that we are a church that gets together outside of worship, too.

A couple summers ago, our family was in the “we need a summer babysitter” frenzy. At a dinner with Matt and Sarah Glatzel, we were lucky enough to discover that Sarah was looking for a summer job and would be happy to babysit for us. It worked out perfectly! To this day, she is still one of my favorite babysitters. Sarah is really artsy, and she had many ideas for art projects. One time we made a stop action film. We also did lots of painting and experimenting with salt and bleach. We would have never had such a fun summer if we hadn’t met such a wonderful person at church.

When you walk into my grandma’s church, there are so many people that the rows and rows of members just turn their head and look at you. When you walk into our church, people come over and know your name and talk to you as if they were family members. In grandma’s church, people are strangers. In our church, we are friends.

We don’t just have a church relationship. It’s a family relationship, really. I would be happy if I could share this blessing with my kids and with many generations after.

So when you are making your stewardship pledge, please keep this in mind. Thank you.

*(Presented by Anna Martin to the Calvary Church congregation during worship on Sunday, November 7, 2010)*