

When I was asked to write about the church, my first thought was “I haven’t been a member long enough!” After thinking about it for a while, and getting a nudge to send in my thoughts, I realized that I have been a member for just the right length of time. My experience at Queen Anne has been an interesting one. I started coming to the church while I was finishing up my MBA, and was working really hard at a large local bank. My main focus was on advancing my career and making a better salary, and my spiritual life and practice was mostly non-existent. Then a series of events humbled me - I went on medical leave from work, I had a deep spiritual crisis, I had major surgery, my marriage ended, I was unemployed, and then I found a new job and a new love. Through all of this many people at the church supported me - comforted me in my darkest night, loved me through a time when I wasn’t sure I could love myself, fed me while I was laid up from surgery, walked with me into a deeper relationship with Spirit, and rejoiced with me when I found work and a new relationship. Some of the people that helped me the most, I hardly knew when they offered their love and support. I was astonished at the generosity and selfless giving that this little congregation offered, and still offer, up to me and to others that walk through the door.

I used to think I had to do things on my own to survive. I now know that “where there are two or more, God is with you”. This church has shown me that it is so much better to do more than survive. With others by our side, we can thrive, we can do more than we ever thought possible, and it can be done with grace, ease and companionship instead of with strife, conflict and loneliness. Blessings on this community. May we all thrive - together.

Peace ~ *Kathie Hopkins*

What does church mean to me, or what is it about church that gets me jazzed and out the door Sunday mornings?

Church is the one particular place in my life where I:

- am able to be in community with other aspiring spiritual seekers from whom I receive inspiration and a sense of community;
- am visibly reminded of the abundant presence of God every time I witness the beautiful faces and ever-present joy of the children;
- seek to learn to be authentically myself by being in relationship with other members of the community;
- practice loving unconditionally and without judgment – not only others in the community but myself as well;
- can witness the spiritual growth of my companions on the journey and receive inspiration from watching them soar!

~ *Barb Scamman*

When I first walked in the door, I was greeted by a friendly face. It was that face that brought me back a second time. Those I had met remembered me and my connection with Josh LaMar, and I felt more welcome than ever before in a church. The community here continues to embrace such a variety of people, in different places of faith, of different ages, and of different cultures. Though small, or more probably because of the size, the church feels like a family, helping one another in need, and a genuine delight and respect of the Other.

~ *Lara Maxwell*

2008 Debt Retirement Campaign

Let it Shine

Devotional Booklet

Queen Anne Christian Church
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*I*n March of 1959, a woman with a baby in her arms and a toddler by her side walked through the front doors of Queen Anne Christian Church. Inside those doors was a community of warm welcoming people. People ready to accept her family with support and encouragement. People, who over the years, have become life long friends. I saw God in these people as I have in the people over these many years.

The last several years, my ministry with the children has helped me to know that I am walking and talking with God through your children and hopefully have added to their spiritual development.

May any person coming through the doors of Queen Anne Christian Church be warmly welcomed and nurtured as they begin their Christian walk just as I was in 1959.

~ Vera Baumgartner

I think for me the value and most important thing that I have always found at QACC, is that I was not only told that I was a child of God, but treated as one. From the moment I walked in the door I was greeted with warmth, and respect. I find it so inspiring to be a part of a community of faith that is so inclusive of individuals. To me that is the love of God, and developing it in greater measure is to me our purpose here. I am sincerely grateful for the love and support that I receive through the community and for the peace and enlightenment it brings to me sometimes in the most unexpected but blissful ways.

~ Mikel Smith

Let it Shine

*W*hat does Queen Anne Christian Church mean to me?

It is the “we” of this church that I cherish in my heart. Directed by a firm Hand at my back, I was shepherded to Queen Anne Christian Church a little over a year ago. My first experience here was Forgiveness in the soft voice and eyes of Olive Larsen. And ever since her welcome, time and again, I feel God moving through the rooms “we” share, shepherding us through each others’ voice and eyes, music and touch. And most recently, one of the youngest of the “we” said, “Thank You that God is in my heart and keeps my heart Company.” This wee little “we” is Kelsey Bowles, whose words of Grace come to me fresh again each day when I need them most. I am so thankful to God for His “we” of Queen Anne Christian Church.

In Gratitude, Karen R. Bonnevie

*M*y church to me and our family has been a place of loving sanctuary, guiding us, supporting us, and sometimes, even chiding us. It is the basis of our lives through thick and thin, and we thank God for it.

~ Olive Larsen

*A*s a member of this church for close to 50 years I have had many opportunities to gaze at the Beauty in our stained glass window. Of course it reminds me of our Savior, especially when happiness and peace seem to elude me.

Many years ago I lost the man I thought I would spend the rest of my life with. I felt that God had

betrayed me... it was a long time before I could go to church again.

In my travels to find peace I found this poem, Footprints, we have all read it. As I read it I listened to what the message was... he is always there, we just have to listen. I have included the poem, I hope you read it with an open heart. It is all there, we just have to BELIEVE.

~ Virginia Coester

Footprints in the Sand
by Mary Stevenson

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. “Lord, You said that once I decided to follow you, You’d walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don’t understand why when I needed you most you would leave me.”

The Lord replied, “My son, My precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I Carried You.”

Let it Shine