

Baptism Remembrance Service  
January 10, 2010  
Sherry Wyatt

### **Why do I like hosting parties for my church family?**

Yes, as Gary stated last Sunday, I get Larry to complete projects that I have been wanting done for a long time. But, there are other more important reasons for both of us. Larry says for him, it's the energy of having everyone together to interact with one another and of course, the food is important too. For me, it's a little more complicated than that. Larry and I have been married since 1976. We lived in Austin the 1st 10 years of our marriage and attended 2 different churches during that time. We were looking for, but never formed, close friendships in those 2 churches as we had hoped for---the first church had problems and the 2nd was just too big. Plus, we were a young family with an infant daughter trying to carry on jobs in two different cities. When we moved to San Marcos in 1988, we built our house and invited my family down to see it. My brother's comment was, "you know Lauren will never have boyfriends because they'll never find her way out here." My sister-in-law said, "This will be a great house for entertaining." I had hoped that would happen, but it really didn't. I had friends at my work here and Larry had friends at his work in Austin, but still no friends that we shared as a couple. We joined a church here and formed a few friendships. We taught Sunday School in the children's department, taught in VBS, and yet, almost every Sunday, someone would come up to us and say, "We're so glad you're visiting with us today". The fellowship we were looking for just didn't happen. Then, about five years ago we began looking for another church family. That's when we stumbled into a church that Gary was pastoring, and we met the Jones' and several others that are sitting in this congregation right now. Of course, as many of you know, that church exploded, but when it fell apart, there was no doubt in our minds as to which group we would follow---we had found some amazing people that we were not going to lose. Out of that explosion, CTRC was born. Finally, our family has found the fellowship that we had been looking for. It's fun having you come to our house. The Bible tells us to "practice hospitality". (Romans 12:13). I hope that when you come to our house, you feel welcomed, comfortable, at home. I hope that I'm not too much like Martha when Jesus came to visit---worried about the details, striving to serve, to please, to do the right thing, but more like Mary, just enjoying spending time with people who mean so much to me. And that leads me to the 2nd question Gary wanted me to answer:

### **What do you love about your church family?**

Carla and I were sitting at the same table at lunch the other day (we teach at the same school) and we were talking about church. Another teacher friend was sitting with us. I can't remember her exact words, but she said something like, "I wish I had more of a church family. My church is so big that I don't feel like I know anyone." Then I thought, how grateful I am that we not only talk and laugh with each other, but that we are so involved in one another's lives. That involvement leads us to great joy when we hear about a new baby or grandbaby or when a much needed job is finally found. It leads us to great sadness when a mate, a sister, a brother, a mom or dad is lost. That involvement causes us to surround each other with outpourings of love when one of us becomes sick or hospitalized and takes us into those hospital rooms and buys hats for one losing her hair to chemo treatments. That involvement with each other pours out into the community to help at the Youth Shelter, the Food bank, the Salvation Army. As Bert is constantly telling us in the Lectionary Class, this book tells us the 2 most important things that we as Christians should do---love God and love each other. Never have I been involved in a church that does both so well.

And the 3rd question that I'm supposed to answer:

### **Why am I glad I am baptized?**

I was actually baptized twice in the same Baptist Church in DeKalb Texas. When I was 12, I lived on our farm/ranch and I was pretty shy. My Sunday School teacher came to our house to talk to my mother and me----after all I had reached the age of accountability. I was baptized soon after

that. But I was never quite sure whether it was my decision or if the decision had been made for me. At 17, after years of church camp, I finally came to the conclusion that, like the thief on the cross, there was absolutely nothing I could do for Jesus, but that he valued me anyway. I put my faith in him, went into the baptismal waters again, and heard those words, "buried with him in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life". Baptism to me is symbolic of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It is important to me because I believe it's what He wants us to do and it reminds me that I am linked to Christ and to the fellowship of believers with a bond that can never be broken. Our friendships will last forever and that is amazing!!