

MARY ANN GROSS

Where ever you see “the man with the broom,” you can be assured that somewhere behind him, or in some instances, way ahead of him will be his other half, Mary Ann Gross. She will be outside the building, planting and weeding the flower beds, picking up limbs blown off the trees, or arranging an attractive flower design around the park bench. If he is inside the church, waxing and polishing, you can easily find Mary Ann in the kitchen cleaning out the refrigerator or making a list of supplies needed. She may tackle the stove next or wipe off the countertops, leaving the floor for her husband. Mary retired ten years ago as office manager for a CPA firm, and thoroughly enjoys her life as a retiree.

This story and one about her husband tell about the valuable services provided by two of our members, who were part of the group that migrated south to All Saints after Abiding Savior Church had to close its doors. That transfer of memberships occurred about ten years ago. Mary Ann said she and Phil liked the friendliness of the people. She keeps coming because of that welcoming atmosphere, and because the services “make me feel closer to God.”

Phil and Mary Ann have two daughters, Leslie and Heather, who have provided them with three grandchildren. Mary says the birth of her own children and now having the company of grandchildren are the best times of her life. She enjoys them and their visits are special. Leslie lives in Arizona and Heather lives in Grain Valley. Her other blessing is her marriage of 47 years to Phil.

When asked what she wanted people to remember her for, Mary confesses she hasn't thought about that. She just quietly does what is needed without any fanfare, enabling the church to be in good order and the services can proceed without problems.

Someone else might know her as a member of the Project Comfort workgroup. Others might add it is the beautiful flower beds she tends. Still others would recall that she is a member of the Tuesday Creative Friends group. And “people in the know,” would say it was scuba diving trips to places on the Atlantic and Pacific and fresh water lakes which Phil enjoys immensely.

Mary has surprised herself with making all these trips because, in the first place, she doesn't even like to swim. And I know, personally, when in summer I bring roses from my flower beds, Mary will meet me at the door. Before the service has started, beautiful red roses in their vases adorn our altar.

“Thank you, Mary, What would we do without you?”