

SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHERS

Speaking in public is no problem for Joyce Hoover. In her occupation as an Agent with the Internal Revenue Service, she has logged hundreds of miles, making multiple appearances for people who want to know the complexities of the law relating to tax exempt organizations. Even though she is an introvert, something comes over her when she gets in front of a crowd to help them with their questions. With her many speaking engagements, it has allowed her and her husband, Brian, to travel the country.

She joined All Saints Lutheran Church because Brian was Lutheran. From her first time at church she felt welcomed and was impressed by the friendliness of the small church. Previously she had practiced the Catholic faith, but Lutheran teachings and values also appealed enough for her to become a member of All Saints in November, 2016.

Spritely and talkative, she is a natural volunteer for different roles the church needs. She sings in the choir, is a reader, assists with communion, and helps in the kitchen, especially for the lunches and dinners. She also contributes food for the after service coffee time as well as delicious gluten free dishes for the meals. Because of her love of singing, she is hoping that more members can be recruited for the choir and it can sing more often.

As part of the future of All Saints, she sees more community service, especially making opportunities for more one on one relationships. She sees this as an important role our church can play, as we are small in numbers and lack the barriers often created in large churches. Our church has a feeling of family for her, and she wants to convey that feeling to others. One of the most difficult times in her life was when her mother died in 2013 and her brother went to prison less than 30 days later. She had the duty of handling their affairs and this added to her grief.

When asked what is something she has done of which she is most proud, she unhesitatingly answered, "Pass the CPA test the first time." She smiled as she explained that only 10% of those taking the test for the first time, pass. (Even Brian didn't pass the first time). CPA means Certified Public Accountant and provides credibility to the accounting profession.

Her hobbies are cross stitching, trying out new recipes, and reading. She prefers either novels or autobiographies, and those two fields offer a wide variety of choices.

She remembers with affection that she was placed in an orphanage, and when she was four months old, she was adopted. She appreciates both the sacrifice of her birth mother in placing her for adoption, and her adoptive parents who lovingly raised her. She and husband, Brian, have been married for 19 years. They met in 1999 when Brian, who worked for the IRS in Kansas City, traveled to St. Louis on business where she was working. After they were married, they chose to live in Kansas City.

Joyce, we are glad to have you, so just speak out.

