

Good morning. My name is Dianna Mitts. I am the Co-Chair for the Sunday Night Singles. I came to the Sunday Night Singles group in April of 2004. My husband died in 1995 at the age 39 and I had twin sons, Bobby and Kevin to raise. I was looking for a social group and I liked the 5:30 worship service.

I came here not knowing anyone and now I am standing here. With the Sunday Night Singles I have helped with the NAST Trinity dinners in December, gone Christmas caroling to the Dupree Center and participated in Project 5000.

I have a wonderful family that has given me so much support, some of them are here today. And I have made some very special friends in the singles group. I feel that God lead me to this group and this church.

In December, 2005 my sons were on their way back to Cincinnati from Christmas Dinner with my family. They were 22 years old and were in a horrible accident. The driver of the other car and my Bobby died instantly. My Kevin was air-cared to University Hospital with numerous injuries. At the hospital some of those friends from the Singles Group and Pastor Weaver were there to comfort me and my family. Soon after the accident Pastor Weaver told me a little about the Stephen Ministry and told me to let him know if I felt I would like to have a Stephen Minister. My first thought was "No I don't think I can talk to a stranger", but after a couple of days I thought yes I do need someone to talk to.

I met my Stephen Minister on February 17, 2006. I think she immediately took me into her heart and I did the same with her. We have been meeting almost every week since that time. We talk about anything and everything. Although there is no time limit to the Stephen Ministry I feel it is time for me to move on because I am sure there is someone else who needs her as much as I did.

Although we had every hope that Kevin would survive his injuries from the accident, it was not meant to be. In July, 2006 my Kevin quietly slipped away from us and went to join his dad and brother. Pastor Weaver officiated at his memorial service. I firmly believe that I will see them all again some day.

In February of this year I was a pilgrim on the Greater Cincinnati Women's Walk to Emmaus #98. I had two sponsors, a friend I work with and a friend that I made at the Sunday Night Singles group. I can't begin to tell you what a wonderful experience it was for me. If you have been on an Emmaus Walk you already know that.

I do have a little confession to make. I am a Presbyterian. My ancestors are from Scotland and I come from a long line of Presbyterians. When I was researching my family tree I found a marriage license for the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian church of Morristown,

New Jersey dated 1743 for our first ancestors in the United States. But, I don't think there are that many differences in the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. You have your Trespassers and we have our Debtors and Methodist is much easier to spell. But we all have the same beliefs. And I like to claim this church as my second church.

If you come in the door from the parking lot there is a sign on the wall called "Our Invitation" I like to stop and read it from time to time. And I would like to share it with you because it says what this church means to me.

To all who mourn and need comfort, To all who are tired and need rest, To all who are friendless and want friendship, To all who are lonely and want companionship, To all who are homeless and want sheltering love, To all who pray and to all who do not, but ought, To all who sin and need a savior and to who-so-ever-will, this church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus our Lord, bids WELCOME.

I want to thank you for the Sunday Night Singles ministry, the Stephen Ministry and for the Emmaus Ministry. So many people benefit from all the ministries of this church and a lot of them you never even know. Now you know one of them. Thank you for being Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church. You do make a difference.

Singles Worship Service  
August 24, 2008