WORDS FROM THE PEWS
Parishioners Share their Saint Boniface Stories

Sarah Soboleski – November 6, 2011

Good Morning, my name is Sarah Soboleski. There are many of you I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet as our family is relatively new to Boniface. We became members about 2 years ago after a long, arduous search process that much like picking baby names was not as much fun as it sounds. We were committed to finding a church in which we could raise our children but that's where things got rocky…suffice to say Steve and I began to fear that having been raised in different faiths, and in different homes with different spiritual sensibilities, one of us was going to have to make a big compromise before we'd find a church where we both felt at home.

And then we found Boniface. And it felt like home from the very start.

This is in no small part thanks to Miss Anita and her Sunday school which afford Steve and me 40 minutes a week of relative peace and calm…no small thing for us nowadays, those of you who've seen our daughter at communion know what I'm talking about, so that 40 minutes is not just a chance to pray, it's a little like a spa day.

What's more (and in all seriousness) Anita and the dedicated Sunday school volunteers are lovingly helping our children as they grow into children who strive to live by Christ's example. The things they learn in Sunday school and we take away from the service have led to many conversations about who God wants us to be and how we might better treat and serve one another. And Boniface has helped us act on our best intentions…whether we're giving blood, giving food, giving time or giving money.

It's been a tremendous addition to our lives and we can't wait to see where Boniface will take us next. I hope you will join us in supporting Boniface, and all the things that make this such a special place, through the Annual appeal. Pledge packets are available outside of the main doors for you to pick up today.

God Bless.

Tom Bisker – November 13, 2011

Good Morning. My name is Tom Bisker and I have been coming to St. Boniface with my partner, Rich, since we moved here in 2004. But my first Boniface experience was in 2002. We were down visiting our friends, Bruce and Chuck, who are parishioners here. The deal was that everyone was going out for breakfast after church, and if I wanted to eat, I had to come along.

I grew up in the Methodist tradition, but had pretty much fallen away from regular church attendance since college. I would go to church with Rich occasionally, like Christmas, Easter, or if there was a good brunch afterwards and there wasn't time for Rich to drive back home to pick me up. But on most Sundays, Rich would go off to church and I would roll over and go back to sleep. Rich began to refer to me as a Mattress Methodist.

So on that Sunday in 2002 my expectations for this place were pretty minimal: Let's get this over with so we can go to breakfast. But things did not go exactly as I had planned. In fact, the experience turned into a classic example of that old adage: Man Plans-God laughs.

First, there were all these really friendly parishioners-you folks- who recognized that I was not a "regular" and introduced yourselves, welcomed me, and invited me to coffee after the service. This was something that I had never experienced before.

Then came the sermon. I can't say that I really recall specifics, but I remember it being positive and uplifting, not dogmatic or esoteric like the sermons in my past. The sermon linked the readings and the gospel and the real world and challenged me to think about faith and what God's role in my life might be. And throughout the service, there was this amazing music from that group of people over there.

Then, at the very end, Allan Rogers climbed up into this pulpit and in his very best deacon voice said, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." And I thought, this guy really means it! And as I thought back over the past hour, I came to the realization that, yes, St. Boniface is someplace that I could go to church. And I have been coming ever since.

The sermons continue to inspire and to challenge me. I've had the opportunity to become involved in some of the many social activities here at St. Boniface as well as in some of the outreach programs this parish provides to the larger community. St. Boniface challenges me on a weekly basis to grow my faith and provides numerous opportunities to put that faith into practice. And every week, there is still that great music from the folks over there.

For me, St. Boniface has become a pretty wonderful and amazing place. And these are the things Rich and I talked about this past week when we sat down to have our pledge packet chat.

When it is time for that chat in your household, I urge you, please take the time to reflect on the many ways St. Boniface enriches your lives as you prepare to respond to the Annual Appeal with your pledge for the coming year.

Thank you.