

Temple Talk by Lisa Kaminski – January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Essentially, I was raised Catholic. Actually, very minimally. My parents weren't big on church, but I received religious education through confirmation. I began attending Sunday masses regularly when it was necessary in order to get married in a Catholic church, and continued to attend for a while after my wedding. I started to get frustrated when each week's Sermon was about money. My first husband and I were young, but we managed to own our own home, and money was so tight that we were actually giving our last \$5 each week, leaving us with nothing but some change in our pockets to last us til pay day. Even so, I was left feeling guilty that I couldn't give more somehow. The last time I attended that church was when the church's accountant stood at the podium, instead of the priest, and discussed the church's finances. After all, I was there to hear God's word, not the accountant's! And, I had my own money problems. Plus, I was already frustrated just a few short weeks prior to that when during the Christmas mass, the priest spent more time apologizing to everyone who attended church on a regular basis who was put out by all of the people who only come to church on Christmas and Easter! I couldn't help but think that was so rude, and I felt bad for all the people who AT LEAST came to church for Christmas and Easter.

Then, I didn't attend church for quite a while. For lots of reasons. But I knew I wanted to! After making a lot of changes in my life and meeting my wonderful husband, Tony, we decided together that church is important, and should be part of raising our family. Around the time we moved to Akron, Tony's grandparents, Pete & Evelyn Draper, kept talking about how much they liked their new pastor at Trinity. One weekend while Tony was attending Army National Guard duty, I asked his grandparents if I could join them at church and tagged along with them. I felt so welcomed! As soon as I got home I called Tony and said, "Yeah, that's where we'll be going to church from now on." And we've done exactly that. My first call was to come to Trinity.

As I got more involved with church functions, I remember at one point receiving a little survey kind of pamphlet that wanted to know what kind of talents I had. And I was happy to fill in everything I could possibly do: Office Work – Yes!, Computer Stuff – Yes!, Evangelism – As long as somebody shows me how!, and Treasurer – Yes! I could do those things to help out! I thought it was a great way to be able to give to my new-found church in addition to the money I was able to give each week.

Then, back in late November of 2002, when I was 8-1/2 months pregnant with my daughter, I received my second call. "Lisa, how would you like to be the church Treasurer?" And my answer was: "Not right now!" After all, I was going to have a baby! Soon! But it just so happens, I did accept the offer, I just had to delay things for a little bit, but jumped into it as soon as I was able. It was an exciting new challenge for me, along with my new baby.

I'm glad I was asked what talents I had to offer. I don't remember that being an option at my past church. What's also nice is that I'm encouraged to invite others to join our worship services, even if it's only for Christmas and Easter.

And that's how I offered my stewardship and became Trinity's Treasurer.