

3/30/2014

Scott DeSantis

Good morning, my name is Scott DeSantis. I think I'm more well-known these days as Aunt Annabel's escort! Aunt Annabel - my wife has known her most of her life as Aunt Annabel and that she will always be!

I was raised in the Catholic religion and my brother and I attended parochial schools through high school. We went to church every day! As a kid, I didn't like the formality, structure, and control of the Catholic Church. When my parents got divorced and my mother remarried a few years later the church did not welcome her. I was old enough to make my own decisions about their beliefs and I didn't want to belong to something that didn't welcome my mother.

When my daughter was born, we came down and spoke to Mark Strickland who welcomed us and performed Brittany's baptism. We honored our promise of baptism to bring Brittany up in this church. Well, my wife did – after all, I was Catholic. I noticed – as Brittany herself stood up here and told you during the last stewardship campaign – she loved coming to this church and was grateful for all the guidance and support you showed her along the way. So, I decided to come more often and give back to the community that had given my daughter so much.

My first assigned task was to chaperone an overnight trip to Laserquest... I love this church! I've become involved in a lot of other things over the years – mission trips, fund raisers, building maintenance, driving dozens of frozen turkeys to Haven for Hunger.

One Saturday morning when I was having coffee with Reverend Bailey during the annual Christmas fair I told him to call me anytime I could do anything to help. In hindsight, I probably should have been more precise. Last week, I walked around this sanctuary with a bucket of books on my head for a good 10 minutes, and last Christmas Reverend Bailey and I corralled three sheep into a trailer and brought them here for A Night In Bethlehem and then took them home again.... My motto has become "When God or Reverend Bailey calls me to serve, answer".

But he's answered my calls too. When Liz took Brittany back to college a couple of summers ago, our dog suddenly had to be put down on the first day they were gone. I didn't know what to do - my wife was in Syracuse and I needed help. So I called the next in command – Reverend Bailey. He came right over and helped me put Lady's lifeless body in the car. And then the two of us stood in the street beside the car and he said a prayer for her. I could not have done this alone.

I finally became an official member this past December because I appreciate the ministry of this church and its people – people I refer to as Aunt, people that have known my wife since she was a child, people that encouraged my daughter when she went to represent our church in Bolivia, people who care about us and others - what you have done for me and my family and those in need.

But - I have to be honest, I'm a little scared of what farm animal I am going to be called to pick up next – but I'll do it!