

Combined Congregational Input on Meaningful Memories

Congregational Debrief and Input Gathering on Wednesday, March 7

- Arthur came to visit and pray with me every day in the hospital while I was hanging upside down to hold in my triplet boys, trying to delay birth.
- Strong intellectual stimulation and strong leadership attracted me to Colonial
- The old JPF program during its peak years; married a Lutheran and attended Mt Olivet for many years but now back for 6 yrs. and feel more connected now.
- Gary Klingsporn's loving, gracious, and very personalized blessing of our son's wedding
- Arthur's last sermon, had everyone crying
- I was uncomfortable in a Fundamentalist church and appreciate Colonial's multi-denominational, open-minded approach.
- Meaty theological discussions led by Teaching Ministers: Morris Fetty, Bob McClennan, Bob Guelich, Gary Klingsporn
- Choir—a church within a church
- Mission trips, outreach ministries in local community
- Cursillo experienced as individuals and couples—deep spiritual growth; 300-400 went through
- Men's ski trip
- Unique services and special fellowship events—e.g., sunrise service at Easter with pancake breakfast; Thanksgiving, Christmas, July 4th—times to celebrate and glorify God together.
- Camps—family camp at Castaway, Pyro
- The march from the old church to the new church—marking of a new beginning

Additional notes prepared by Jim Silburn from small group discussion Wed night, March 7

- “Being SUPPORTED and LOVED by this church community, especially 27 years ago this week when our triplet boys were born after months of inverted “standing on her head” bed rest. Our not so small group here lifted us up in prayer and support, and Arthur and/or Joanne were at the hospital EVERY DAY.
- “Just this past Christmas, Mark Stover's Lessons and Carols, the MUSIC here, what a gift. It's like a door swings wide and we're in the celestial realm.”
- “Attended here many years ago, then spent two decades at CPC. Coming back felt so WONDERFUL. So WELCOMING.

Congregational Debrief and Input Gathering on Sunday, March 11

- Dave Williamson in the Meetinghouse, organizing Ski-Jammers for youth; one way kids brought their parents to Colonial
- The first service where I was asked to turn to my neighbor and share thoughts about the sermon topic; was uncomfortable at first, but opened up my mind to the power of sharing
- Children's ministry worker allowed my 5 year old daughter to lead her Sunday School—not strict or rules-based like my former church; open to even a child leading us
- My wife cried after our first visit to Colonial—she felt at home, warmth, fellowship

- Grew up in the church but left for college, then personal tragedies (failed marriage, stillborn child); came back “home” to Colonial; joined choir after first Lessons and Carols
- Cursillo—pivotal point in spiritual life; deep spiritual experience for both husband and wife; came out a different person; motivates to bring others to join along
- Burundi mission experience—felt honored to be invited; Colonial’s approach was well-considered, deep commitment; wouldn’t enter lightly, must test and study to determine if it’s God’s will and the right thing to do.
- Innové outreach—thoughtful engagement
- Families R Us for parents while children in Sunday School—parallel embrace/spiritual growth
- Special service to pray for the Staneks—invited both Colonial and friends from broader community
- Sobbing in Choir—felt it was a safe place for deep feelings, to be real, to fall apart
- Family weddings and baptisms—experience holy ground, sacred covenants

Input from Women’s Renewal Fellowship on Thursday, March 15

- Christmas eve service—reverence, beautiful music, meaningful message, sense of community
- Meaningful traditions: Henry Charles Smith playing the euphonium, Hallelujah Chorus at Easter, Thanksgiving drums beating around the neighborhood; Service of Lessons and Carols. Maundy Thursday washing feet, Seven Last Word of Christ on Good Friday
- When David Fisher road his motorcycle down the center aisle of the Meetinghouse
- When David Fisher ended a sermon with a poignant question to the congregation: Do you really believe this? Leaving up to us whether we believed in the Resurrection
- When I had health issues—got many cards, visits, and support from Women’s Fellowship members
- Difficult, contentious, hurtful times (when Arthur left, when John Westfall was let go) broke hearts, generated animosity between members
- Reconciliation Service for Arthur led by David Fisher
- Families Moving Forward ministry
- Young Mom’s Circle, Women’s circles, Sally Kamp’s 60th surprise
- Choir
- Pilgrim Fellowship in High School; 1968 trip to DC cancelled, so changed to CO; I became a Christian
- Bible studies
- Cursillo movement (when came to Colonial, common experience of Cursillo provided a deep connection from outset)
- Men’s Ski group/trips and family ski trip to Big Sky
- Country market—great community experience, brought outsiders in
- Felt invisible at other churches, but Women’s Fellowship makes me feel at home, feels like family
- Jeff helped my son deal with a friend lost to suicide

Input from Deacons

- Thanksgiving services in the past, events that are no longer held such as couples' group in the evening (Time for Us); Mother/Daughter luncheons;
- Singing the Hallelujah chorus at Easter; the Lessons and Carols service at Christmas
- Our daughter's marriage by Jeff;
- Missions dinner, "Testify to the Light";
- The Country Market- it was a lot of fun and drew in the community
- Small groups between services, couples' learning/study sessions—validating and encouraging;
- Observing Dave Williamson organizing many kids for ski jammers;
- A family reconciliation and healing service offered by Colonial staff for their extended family
- Holy Week services—they ground the church during a time when other churches are moving away from liturgy;
- My wedding at Colonial, family camp, pyro
- Coming back to Colonial after being gone; people were so welcoming, so friendly
- Service of Lessons and Carols—feeling a touching and emotional reaction, spirit-filled, to the music;
- When I joined, I felt like I was home. I felt welcome, experienced a warm feeling that was real
- The people's various gifts; music, being brought into the church by people that held her close; children's involvement.

Input from Church Council

- The support given during hospital stay/bed rest before the triple boys were born; prayer, visits, food
- Getting remarried here with the same pastor
- Fellowship with other couples and their kids
- Ski trips for all ages
- Being a confirmation leader when one of the girl's friends died; developed close ties "through the valley"
- Guelich lecture series
- Hunger half events

Input from Dudes & Donuts

- Working with Dave Williamson and Jeff Lindsay with the youth.
- Nursing home visits as a Deacon....Jeff Lindsay as person who is person of impact.
- Cancer Diagnosis and dudes and donuts laying hands and praying for me....Jeff Lindsay as person of impact.
- Deacon committee again and visits....listening to those who were sick.
- Dudes and Donuts...the community....music on Sundays.....Sermons....Dick Cronstrom and Bob Dahm as people of impact.
- Help from Jeff Lindsay when going through a difficult personal and financial time.

- Church is part of our life for over 40 years...community...cursillo....Doug Jones and Bob Schultz as people of impact.
- Alpha and testify to the light....Dick Cronstrom and Annette Anderson as people of impact.
- Dudes and Donuts...fellowship...community...packing for Sheridan story....Jeff Lindsay and Jerry Potter as people of impact.

Input From Staff

- Hunger Half- connection of Community and Missional
- When Colonial welcomed UR to the building- it was so warm and so many Colonial people showed up
- Journey in and out of Colonial- came with suspicion and contempt for the church more broadly...ended up coming to Christ here and was supported by this community
- Attended on an Easter Sunday- the shutters were thrown open and it made it all more real to me...it opened up Jesus to me.
- The music here is breathtaking at times- watching Mark direct has been positive and inspiring to me, and how he pulls and invites others into that space. The love of God comes through him.
- It's a community of prayer- people are willing to pray for you from their heart.
- Funerals and weddings when we minister to people really well. The moments of memories of the weddings and baptism and parents' funerals.
- My sister was really sick and the church reached out to us and would show up to pray and good stuff would always happen.
- All of the memories of my son growing up here....the community and the love he has been shown by everyone here at Colonial.
- The first Innove celebration: the true sense of sending out and keeping relationships with so many of them--it is a moment of seeing how the church can be what the church should be.
- My first service here...I just balled. It's been a space for melding the traditions of my life and faith. Seeing the more traditional aspects melded together with the modern thinking.

Input from the Chorale

- Getting married here – one guy talked about seeing his wife-to-be in her wedding dress, standing in a beam of sunshine, and it took his breath away
- Making quality music
 - From The Kind of Love to the Faure Requiem
 - We can share our gifts and worship God this way even if we aren't fabulous musicians
 - It helps you find a smaller group within the church
 - We worship as much at rehearsal on Wednesdays as we do on Sundays
- Being welcomed like family by existing friends on the first Sunday you visited Colonial
- Confirmation Sunday – the individual prayers over the confirmands shows that they are known
- Being encouraged to live out faith in all aspects of life
- The staff is wonderful
 - David Fisher's preaching
 - The current staff is a wonderful blend
- Feed my starving Children
- Advent wreath making workshops Mom was active at Colonial.
- All-church retreats
- Innove – people want it to continue; it brought one Chorale member to Colonial

- We're committed to spiritual formation and teaching ministries – seminary quality classes
- Good Friday service of the Seven Last Words
- We're not afraid to claim Jesus – many churches don't say his name
- The music can be relied upon
- Tom Tipton singing in worship
- The community of the Chorale makes us feel secure
- Grow and Serve Group
- Emotionally Healthy Spirituality
- Lessons and Carols
- Monday morning Bible study with Gary Klingsporn
- Mission trips for kids
- Pilgrim Presence trips to Africa
- The community of the Choir
- Upper Room collaboration
- Country Market
- Children's choir – it's my favorite part of the church
- Committees--helped you meet people and learn how the church functions as an organization
- The gift of leadership – we've had lots of strong lay leaders
- After the death of his wife, different people asked every Sunday for a year how he was doing. The caring community was deep and wide.

Input from 1:1 Caregivers

- Cursillo – lots of discussion here
 - Faith became personal – one guy realized that God was at his shoulder all the time
 - Lots of community – the broader Cursillo community was at the hospital all the time when Jerry Kamps was dying
 - Sharing a common significant experience provided a starting point and basis for relationships
- Mission trips
 - Seeing God at work in a place that's really different than where we live grows our image of God
 - Seeing people who live in utter poverty have the joy of the Lord is challenging to one's faith
 - Working together, sweating together, worshipping together – all in a strange place that's really outside the comfort zone – is a recipe for community
 - Trusting the church and its people enough to send your high school kid to Peru without a parent speaks volumes
- Being a Stephen Minister or 1:1 minister
 - Walking alongside someone in their time of need is powerful for both people
 - There's a community within the team
- Crawling around under the building installing the church's first computer network.
 - Using skills and abilities from the business world for the good of the church and the sake of the Gospel was wonderful
 - It also felt privileged – special – to be somewhere in the building where few people have been, and basically nobody else had permission to be there.
- Music – both making it and listening to it
 - Little touches our souls like music – both head and heart
 - Singing in the Chorale, being surrounded by that sound

- I've often thought that it didn't matter if anyone came to Lessons and Carols. We were singing to the glory of God. If He heard, that was enough.
- Special family moments
 - Weddings, baptisms, confirmations
 - The front of the Meetinghouse platform is holy ground

Miscellaneous Input

- Chorale trip in 1990 to sing in the Salzburg Church Choir Festival. The Chorale has been an experience "larger than life". They are my family in the Church.
- Weddings, funerals, certain sermons
- Getting married
- Choir from the Halleluja Chorus
- Special music like the French horn solo at the Christmas Eve service
- Experience in Chorale – especially under Mark
- Witnessing in Kenya with Jeff
- Witnessing the baptism of our grandchildren
- Many wonderful sermons, services, prayers, choral presentations
- Daughter's baptism at Colonial. It was special because she is known in this community and it was a faith journey she was on as a part of this community.
- Youth/student mission trip to Mexico as a chaperone. It was great because she wasn't sure if she would be accepted as an "older" single person by the youth. But, everyone, youth and staff made her feel welcomed and she had so much fun. Formed great relationships and went on many other trips.
- A group 20-30 years ago called the Priscilla Circle. A group of stay at home moms who were raising their kids together and sharing faith together. Many deep relationships and common values. Also a Sunday ministry called Families R Us. Many people talking about the importance of family relationships and parenting, supporting each other and sharing faith.

Input from Foundation Board

- Two daughters were baptized here
- I was baptized here as an adult
- Youth experiences – PFYF – Pilgrim Fellowship – Youth Fellowship
- Community driven by Joanne Metcalf – created important connections with other members
- Mission trip to Dominican Republic
- Youth fellowship – camps and weekly gatherings as a youth – Colonial was the place to be
- Trip to Israel with Dave Williamson
- Small Groups – grow and serve, bible studies
- Married here
- Family events
- Historic "Holy Spirit" moments in the church – mainly surrounding music
- Trips up north for Family Camp – time with family in worship, developing a community with other families that we still sit in the pews with weekly
- Personal testimonials – 4-5 minute long – created close connections
- Cursillo – powerful movement
- TEC – Teens Encounter Christ

Sunday Supper at the Moen's on March 25 (Powells, Westgates, Lathams, Martis)

- Simple, intimate, and special wedding facilitated by Jeff in the Prayer Room
- Piling into canoes in the middle of the night with Mark Wikstrom preaching under the stars
- Gathering with church family at Camp Castaway when kids were babes in arms at Camp Castaway
- Daniel's sermons—intelligent, well-crafted--a gift that shows he cares enough for us to put in the hard work; bringing in scientific interests and connections.
- Teaching Faith Trek with Diah Johnson and Jane Steinke--forging cross-generational relationships
- Rick Grooms asked son Reggie if he'd like to help set up trains for Christmas in PJs—personal invitation to serve in cross-generational experience
- Testify to the Light—powerful community immersion experience connecting with international missions; magical, creative touches by Christopher Hibma, everyone filled a balloon with a dream
- Powerful reconciliation and healing service in the Hearth Room facilitated by Gary Klingsporn for my family that was hurt by divorce
- Paul Ulrickson provided healing and helpful counseling following hurtful divorce
- Baptism of our daughter by David Fisher when she was 9—the loving, covenant promise by the whole community for all of Colonial's children
- Jeff jumped in to save a child from the flames of a fire—an example of Jesus
- Jeff came to the hospital when I had a stroke
- Service of Lessons and Carols—spiritually and emotionally uplifting
- First experience at Colonial, being welcomed into and attending the “Old Fashioned Bible Study” on Sunday mornings, led by Ramseysers, Popes, Manhards, and Potters.
- Participating in Families R Us as we shared and learned how to raise our children in the faith
- Marriage enrichment class attended by older and newer couples—creating long-standing, cross-generational connections
- Participating in Innové teams, supporting young social entrepreneurs serving Christ

Sunday Supper at the Fisher's

- The first time one person came to the church, the bulletin encouraged us to start with “loud and friendly greetings.” We were encouraged to chat and not to just be quiet.
- One person joined the choir right after visiting the church, and found community
- Colonial challenges the mind.
 - Maurice Fetty, Andy Overman and Gary Klingsporn leading Bible studies
 - Daniel's deep theology is a good fit for the community
 - Some in this group miss not having a Teaching Minister
- Both learning and serving are emphasized
- Kids and youth ministries are strong
- The staff has been really strong through the years – with a few gaps
- We look at the issues of the day through the lens of faith
 - We don't always do this well – one person talked about the lack of follow-up after discussions on big issues
- We have brought in big name speakers

Input from Waters and Friendship Village

- Pilgrim Fellowship (youth group in 70s)
- Women having voice in congregation (serving on deacon board, respect and value in committee meetings)
- Teaching Ministers
- Approachable, attentive staff and pastors
- Musical Worship (choir, especially at Easter and Christmas)
- Devilish Dialogues (production of Colonial staff with conversation between ‘satan’ and ‘God’ that went on the road)
- Elgin taking Sunday School class to Perkins for ice cream – no lesson plan!

Input from Koinonia Group (Mootys, Nyvalls, Heltnes, Schaefers, Moens)

- Families R Us—provided connections and shared learning for young families
- Father was rushed to hospital, choking and suffocating, Gary Klingsporn was there in minutes, prayerful, reverential, and supportive of our distraught family
- Gary’s preaching on Buechner—spoke to the internal experience of experiencing God; also his lighthearted visit to Families R Us—so personable, so serious, but also so good-humored
- When serving on Youth Committee, was called in by David Fisher to meet with some concerned parents, he showed deep courage and wisdom in how he dealt with the situation
- Arthur’s Service of Reconciliation, led by David Fisher and facilitated by senior deacon, Mark Patrick, the perfect person for this job; worked with small group, including Carolyn Meyer, Ed Lounsberry over a year to develop it
- David Fisher’s deep teaching and wisdom changed my life—modeled the Way through worship and teaching; working with him and others on the Jubilee Campaign that resulted in retirement of the mortgage debt
- Bob Guelich teaching the Kerygma Course—called me by my name, making me feel known and loved
- Jeff Lindsay marrying our son and his wife; felt blessed to have Jeff walking alongside him in that relationship; and he gives great bear hugs!
- Gary Klingsporn marrying our son and his wife—the service and his comments were so thoughtful and personalized, a great representation of Colonial’s warmth and depth for his wife’s family and attendees from Southern California
- Our trip to the Holy Land, with spirit-filled leadership of the Fortins, Williamsons, and Hughes
- First time visiting Colonial, my wife cried because she felt so “at home”
- Painful experience of John Westfall’s tenure—showed both good and bad in our dealing with conflict
- Small group learning and sharing—getting to know and walk with others through life’s trials

Input from Grow & Serve Group (Johnsons, Eides, Christiansens, Fosters, Moens)

- My marriage service performed by David Fisher and with music by Jeff Jensen's band, in my church home, where so many meaningful family moments have taken place (baptisms, confirmations, etc.)
- Involvement with Africa—the sense of God calling us: *Here I am Lord*.
- Celebratory, playful events, such as the Country Market and decorating the Meetinghouse for Christmas—the Blessing of the Bows—a joyous community celebration and tradition
- The special features that have marked key holidays: Christmas candle light service, Thanksgiving drummers and proclamations, 4th of July picnic and band; opportunities to bring neighbors and friends and to celebrate together.
- The consistent and ongoing quality of the sermons and worship experience—makes us eager to come to church
- Small group gatherings such as Sunday Learning Communities where we connected, grew, and learned how to raise our families in faith together.
- Wednesday night adult classes on current issues—discussing diverse views and in depth
- Marriage of our daughter by David Fisher and his personal message for our son (and each confirmand) at confirmation service
- When Arthur would say: It's Christmas! Imbuing the words with joy and profound meaning.
- Arthur came to pray and bring comfort when my father was dying.

Comments sent by Jim Foster for inclusion in the Grow & Serve Group discussion:

While we both have many fond memories of particular events, services, confirmations, a wedding, memorial services, and such, I cannot identify one in particular, but rather I would describe more of an environment or a culture that existed, (and while somewhat diminished, in my view), still exists in our DNA.

That is, Colonial was experienced by us as a broad community of people from many individual faith journeys (different faith traditions or denominations, some with none), who were seeking to follow Jesus. Less interested in particular rules, traditions, and such, and more in learning how to better live our lives in ways that we love and serve one another, and others, both near and far.

Of course this culture was nurtured by leadership, both staff and lay, along with some of what I would call, strategic areas of focus related to serving. It was expected that one should serve. There were many role models all around our congregation for that service, volunteers in various capacities both inside and outside of our walls. There were also other contributors in shaping the culture, and those were: Cursillo and the Renewal Groups; Young Life, Camp Pyro, The Music Ministry, Prison Ministry, Families Moving Forward, and other outreach ministries. The pastors were active in supporting these, as was much of the congregation. There was visibility to them and what seemed to be a focus.

While one could argue that it could be a different set of outreach opportunities, what was important, I think, was that there was the focus, visibility, clarity, and support from the top and throughout the community, and the cultural norm of serving.

It's unfair to say that those conditions don't exist today at Colonial, as there are indeed numerous ways to get involved in serving even though the missions and areas may be different. I would say, though, that

whatever the reasons, there seem to be fewer people willing to be engaged. We also seem to lack focus. We have a “Chinese menu” but it doesn’t appear that we identify priorities. I very well may be wrong on this, though, as since becoming “snowbirds” we don’t have as much visibility to current conditions.

I believe there are many factors causing today’s dynamics, and recognize that it is a complex issue with no simple solution. The best approach, in my mind, is to keep our focus on Jesus. What he taught, but more importantly, in what he did and how he lived. That is what we are called to model. It is not about us or programs, or music, or where we worship. It is about how best to love God, His Creation, and to love one another.

Personal Email Submission (Joyce Lovestrand)

My husband and I came to Colonial Church in the 90’s, having spent 30 years in missions.

We came burnt out and hurting. The grace-filled atmosphere at Colonial brought healing to our tears. We found new hope in the Bible studies, in the Spiritual Formation Center and in the choir family. Little did we know of the impact these studies would have on our lives.

David developed cancer in 2009 and all through his treatments he attended the formation center meetings, finding a new way to rest in God’s strength and peace.

We were told after many treatments, that there was nothing else that could be done. I received a word from scripture to completely trust, for this is a “holy ground experience.”

During his time in hospice, the Colonial Men’s group and the Formation Center read scripture and prayed with him at every step of his journey. Choir friends sang and prayed with him. His friend and pastor, Gary Klingsporn, helped him plan his funeral.

I will be forever grateful to Colonial for the out-pouring of love at this difficult time.

God used this church to bring inner healing and a practical demonstration of God in the flesh.

Personal Email Submission (Angie Pederson)

- Too many to count! Lots of great VBS memories. Also, I was really blessed by Tracy Mooty and Anne Williamson during a mom’s group they facilitated called “Breathing Room” for moms of young children. It was the beginning of a more adult faith in God for me, and where I met many wonderful moms with kids of similar ages as my kids.
- I will always remember and be so proud of Innove and that whole process. I also loved the Fall women’s retreat that Danielle Jones and Jennifer Thomas organized for several years. It was a wonderful building block of my faith. I still miss that event every fall! Our family will always remember the 1st big Christmas play that you, Marie, were a part of and how that tradition has continued on each year in a different way. It’s not Christmas for our family until we have been to the 3:00 children’s service. It is the highlight of our Christmas season, as well as the Lessons and Carols service.

Personal Email Submission (Dawn Harrell)

- One day I arrived at church after a week of frustrating child-rearing. I was totally overwhelmed. When Linda (Van Bergen) Fisk asked a courteous “how are you?” as she was leaving worship, I told her the truth. She was being whisked outside, but she paused and said, “What’s one thing you can change next week? One thing.” I can’t remember what either the problem or the one thing was, but I will always remember the grace and the wisdom. I could handle one thing. Her words were the right words at the right moment. None of my family are here, so the mother/grandmother-words I’ve received from Linda, from the Thursday Morning Renewal Group, from the Monday Morning Bible Study, from Janet Havens and Kris Eide---I could go on---are precious to me.
- Is there any Colonial memory that hasn’t grown into a larger-than-life story? The normal sized memory out of Colonial’s past that I love most is a story that Gary Klingsporn told Daniel and me when we visited him and Deborah on Nantucket before Daniel started. Gary said that one Saturday his daughter was home from college and they were going to do something together, but first he had to stop quickly at the church. She wandered off while he attended to the errand, which ended up taking him longer than he expected. When he was done, he couldn’t find her anywhere. He searched the entire church and was beginning to worry, when he actually walked into the meeting house, instead of just opening the side door. There he saw her laying in the center aisle. Because he was already worried, he thought the worst and rushed to her side: “What’s the matter? Are you OK?” She looked up at him from the carpet, smiled and said, “I’m more than OK. I’m home.” She was laying in the center of her Colonial experience, relishing and resting in the silence and the memories. When Gary told us that story, I thought this is a place where I can raise my daughter .

Personal Email Submission (Tom Carrier)

- Our earliest memory was in the early 70s, when we first attended Colonial for a Thanksgiving service at the “old” church on Wooddale Ave. Even though we had to watch the service on a 10” B&W TV screen in a very small library because the sanctuary was full, we were blown away. Arthur’s message that day was riveting and we felt warmly received by people who didn’t even know us. And where else could you find folks dressed in authentic Pilgrim attire? We were hooked and a year or two later, we officially committed to owning the covenant.
- There are many too many to tell but one of the great common threads over the 45+ years we have been attending has been the willingness of lay men and women to step-up-to-the-plate and share responsibility for the operations of the church. By this I mean everything from committee assignments, council, fundraising, wielding a paintbrush or a rake, busing dishes, teaching Sunday School, choir, funeral committee, ushers and the list goes on. Professional people, i.e. lawyers, accountants, builders, etc. have given freely of their time to provide the expertise for tough decision-making. It seems like volunteerism has always been a part of our DNA.

Personal Email Submission (Sue Stanek)

- The healing service conducted for my husband who has leukemia
- Innove – round 1
- In the olden days: Super Star staff reputations – Rouner, Guelich, Wickstrom, Klingsporn, Metcalf....
- Pyro

Personal Email Submission (Wendy Senior)

There are so many to choose from, and I know so many more memories will be made.

The most meaningful memory is one because when I look back it marked a time in my life that played a huge development in who I am today. It was 34 years ago and being part of P.F. and going on my first Colorado ski trip. I can still vividly remember and feel how this trip was filled with God's love. I knew I felt safe, I knew I was loved, I knew I was accepted, and I knew God believed in me. I also saw true Christians celebrating God!

Notes Scrawled on Brown Paper Sheets on the Windows

- Colorado Ski trips
- Alpha
- Cursillo
- Choir Trip to France
- When the congregation walked from the old church to the new one
- Meeting at Colonial Church Rouser "American History"
- Traveling to Israel
- Jeff Preaching
- Coming to Christ
- Funerals
- Weddings
- Baptism
- Finding Recovery
- Mission Trips
- Centering Prayer
- Crash!

Parents of Younger Kids

- Children loving Sunday School and asking to go back
- Walking in the door and being congratulated on that simple 'success'
- Being 'mothered'
- Wedding and baptism of children
- People interested in my children
- Just get to the door (with young kids) and know that someone would be there "take it from here" (provide childcare and a respite for parents)...taking care of the littles...taking care of the adults

From our Snowbirds

- Community created by bible school, boards, caroling, parties, Sunday school, and gathering groups.
- Loved the intergenerational mix of people and programs
- Having all of our children baptized here
- Having all of our children baptized. I still have hope that they'll think back on each one of their baptisms!
- Confirmation Sundays and Missionary Sunday. There were as many as 100 kids being confirmed and Arthur individually prayed for each
- Missionary Sunday the front and side of the church would be lined with missionaries from all over the Colonial prayed for and financially supported
- First bus of kids going to Silver Cliff Ranch one day after the beginning of the rioting in Washington D.C. It was a one day turn around and the flexibility of leaders, parents, and kids was amazing.
- VBS- Co-leading—writing own curriculum, recruiting and training 100 volunteers—great team efforts for making knock their socks off week for our children
- Bob McClennan Bible study for women where as a small group leader got “trained” in facilitating and building relationships in our small groups- plus life-giving bible study
- Counseling ministry with Dave Williamson where I received information and training on communication skills and was trained to help with pre-marriage counseling
- Teaching ministry that brought in Henri Nouwen, Bruce Larson, John Claypoole, and others of renown
- Youth ministry- encouragement and support to Young Life
- Family camp- such fun!
- Friends and Community- Colonial and the long-time friends we've made that are truly our “community. These friendships have been built out of shared experiences at worship and in smaller groups we've been a part of. This is the key reason that we would never leave Colonial, no matter how crazy things get or have gotten. There's no way we could ever replace this community of close friends with shared faith, values, and interests.
- Boards and Committees that have helped us to building friendships. The elimination of these has been a loss for building community. This is the “congregational way” to involve the body of the church and these were eliminated with no discussion
- Adult learning opportunities—the Bible study and learning have been formative for us. Especially in the years when we had a teaching minister, this was a key attraction for us to Colonial. We feel the offering of high quality adult learning has declined considerable since the elimination of the Teaching Minister role. The college professors have done a pretty good job and the Beth Moore classes are good. But nothing has been as simulating as sitting at the foot of Bob MacLennan or Gary Klingsporn. The teaching minister position was a distinctive at Colonial, and we're the worse for it being gone.
- First PF ski trip to Colorado. Last minute adjustment from trip to Washington DC to Silver Cliff Rance in Colorado. This changed youth ministry at Colonial and played a role in the direction of the church to be more spiritual, “evangelical” in tone. The first year (1968) one bus, then 2 then 3 then 4 and when Wickstrom was here it was 4-5. Later a couples trip developed out of that which eventually became the men's ski trip, which continues every year... vacation with a purpose.
- Same thinking led to summer mission trips
- In some ways that was a precursor to Cursillo—focusing on the explicitly spiritual or Christ-centered events. And deepened partnership with YL.
- Confirmation, esp of our own kids
- Lectures—from Berrigan to M.Scott Peck to Howard Thurman and Henri Nowen.
- Summer Ministers, especially Bill Pannell
- Small Group creation
- Raising funds for Africa followed by mission trips
- All Church meetings—with open discussion, differences of opinion, and esp. all of church prayer, etc.