



the Source

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...

I've learned a great deal about being a part of the body of Christ from many sources along my life's winding path. There are various family legends about the power of being part of the body of Christ. Here is one...

My mother had me "accidentally" in 1950. My birth is a story about the love of the body of Christ. My father entered the active ministry in June 1949 and was appointed to what was then First Methodist Church Garwood. The following spring, mother discovered that she was pregnant with me. After several challenges, including a fall, mother ended up in bed for the last half of the pregnancy. She had a six-year-old and a young toddler whom she was not allowed to pick up. The body of Christ jumped into action.

One member, Myra Chapman, had a rooming house and served lunch every day. My father, who had many gifts and abilities, could barely boil water. Myra brought lunch to the parsonage every day. Finances were very challenging. December rolled around, and I decided to make an early entry into the world. I believe the official due date was mid-January. Mom's visit to the doctor revealed that she was going into labor on December 17. I was born via C-section the following morning. The family decided to delay celebrating Christmas until Mother and I got home from the hospital. In order to bring us home, the hospital bill had to be paid. Daddy went to the church treasurer to ask for an advance on his January pay check to pay the bill. The treasurer asked Daddy if he had opened the gift the church had given him a couple of days before. Daddy explained that the family was not going to open gifts until Mom and I got home. The treasurer instructed Daddy to go open his gift. It was a billfold with enough cash in it to pay the hospital bill. The body of Christ had come through in a mighty, powerful way.

The love and support of that first church family Daddy served was just the beginning of thirty years of being in the service to the Lord and being served by the body of Christ. In each experience of being in the body of Christ in different geographic locations, there were additional gifts given and received, but the Head of the Body was always there to greet and use us all. I've never been without a body of Christ, and I never plan to be without one.

— Myra Schomburg, First Church member

Monday: I Corinthians 12:26

What experiences have you had touching and being touched by the body of Christ? We love, support and share in a variety of ways – pain, joy, birth, illness, and death.

Consider the Source

1 Corinthians 12:18-31

Tuesday: I Corinthians 12:27-31

At the end of April, I was blessed to an unusual celebration with our body of Christ when I arrived from out-of-town just in time to attend the joint choral concert. Normally, I experience these events as a performer, but this time, I was blessed to be in the audience.

- How do you serve within the body of Christ?

Wednesday: Romans 12:5-8

We have a simple, wonderful way to alert each other of our prayer concerns and requests.

- Do you let us know when you need prayers? Please let us touch your life in this amazing way.

Thursday: I Corinthians 12:18

All of us are part of one another's lives in many ways. In such a large church family, it is essential that we become involved in small groups to care and support one another.

- Join some small groups today to become a part of touching other lives...and being touched by others.

Friday: I Corinthians 12:25-26

Is there a way we can serve you and your family today? Never rob us of the opportunity to love you, serve you, rejoice with you, and just be present with you.

A Family Affair

What if you were no longer able to use one of your body parts? You can choose which one. Would you pick an eye or a nose? What about a foot? Share as a family what part of your body you would choose and why.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-20 together as a family. In this scripture, the apostle Paul is writing to one (or more) of the early churches. Like the parts of a physical body, each member of the church is an important part of the body of Christ. The pastor or teacher is not more important than the children. All the members are important and work together to serve as the body of Christ: some teach, some sing in the choir or ring in the bell choir, some may help with greeting or ushering. Even young children can help serve in worship, like at our 5 pm Christmas Eve service.

The body of Christ, the church, is to share God's love to all, not just those inside the church. Spend some time talking about how each of you could serve God, by sharing his word and his love. Can you serve inside our church? How about outside the church?

Dear God, thank you for affirming each one of us as an important part of your family. Be with us as we share your love with others. In Jesus name, Amen.

—Children's Ministry Staff