

Aimee Samuels Spiritual Journey

An Elder in 2006, Aimee visited FCC at the invitation of numerous friends and has been a member at First Christian Church for 6 years. Originally from Price Hill in Cincinnati, she lived in Harrison for 25 years and now calls the Bridgetown area home. Aimee has one grown son Ryan and a daughter-in-law, Deanna. Aimee works for a marketing firm in Cincinnati as a Project Director and spends her spare time gardening. Aimee has served in several ministries including Life Group leader, Servant Heart, ALPHA, Matthew 25, and Emmaus. Favorite Scripture: 1 John 4:12.



I have been attending First Christian Church for about six years, and I would like to share a little about my past and where I am with my walk with Christ.

My mom and dad were both from Canada. I was their first child born in Cincinnati. I was raised in Price Hill, and I am the third oldest of 10 children. To say the least, my childhood was busy. I was raised in a religious home. I attended Catholic school from grade school through high school.

My family suffered a tragedy that would alter my family life for ever. It was the death of my seven year old brother, Tommy. Tommy died suddenly. I was eight years old. I was not sure what was going on, but I did know Tom was gone and never coming back, my mom cried a lot and just wanted to sleep, my dad was drinking a lot and our home had become very sad. My parents were at a loss as to what to say. They told me that there was no good reason for Tom's death other than it being God's will. Deep in my heart I truly believed that nothing happened in our home without my dad's approval. At a very young age, I developed a fear that would later develop into anger that would infect all the stages of my life.

I struggled all through grade school and was never considered a star student. I just tried to get by. By the time I reached high school I had pretty much given up. I was very disconnected, not interested and my grades reflected my attitude. I did not want God to be an active participant in my life. I was rebellious and experimented with drugs and alcohol. I was miserable and made sure my father was just as miserable. I did a good job of it too. (At one of our last family gatherings before my dad passed away, he gave me the family award of "Hardest to Raise.")

I married shortly after high school and moved to Harrison. I still kept God very much on the outside of my heart. I would only occasionally pray if things were not quite going my way or I wanted something. I did during this time have gratitude for the gift of my son. He is the greatest gift in my life and brings me much happiness, and he was the glue that kept my marriage going for 16 years. I sent my son to Catholic school. Some church activity was required during that time. I filled my obligations, but still I had no need to have a relationship with Jesus.

My marriage ended in divorce. I stayed grounded and focused on raising my son for the first few years, but over time felt an overwhelming feeling of emptiness and pain in my heart. Making the decision not to have God in my life sent me in several directions looking for something to fill the void and take my pain away. Alcohol and pain are not a good combination, and my drinking caused problems. I made several bad decisions. Eventually, I entered a program of recovery and stopped drinking. During that time my heart softened to the idea of God, but I still kept God at arm's length and I barely maintained control.

After several invitations to attend church at FCC, I finally accepted, and my life has been changed in ways I could have not imagined.

Through the people at FCC, I learned that God is love.

Through ALPHA, I learned that Jesus is my Savior, that I had already been forgiven, and He had been waiting for me all the time.

Through Emmaus, I learned that Jesus loves me unconditionally, and what awesome meant.

Through serving, I learned that God is glorified.

Through joining this body of Christ, I learned that I can be happy, fulfilled and whole.

In closing, I would like to share with you a Bible verse: I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. – Galatians 2:20