

I am Patrick Millin. My journey at St. Mark's started when I was 10 years old. All I knew of St. Mark's at that time was that it was the "haunted" church in Cheyenne. We were invited to attend the baptism of a close family-friend's newborn son. At the time, our family did not regularly attend services nor were we members of any church. My father was raised Roman Catholic and my mother was raised strict Missouri Synod Lutheran. These two religions, and my experience with them, implanted in me from an early age that church was not a place where I would find God's love. That belief changed during that first service at St. Mark's.

The message – whoever and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome – forever changed my life. I felt then that the longing in my heart would be answered by this St. Mark's community. The message, however, went beyond words in a bulletin. It was a way of life exhibited by members of the church. I was welcomed to coffee in the parish hall, asked to become an acolyte, encouraged to volunteer for Friday Food Bags, and later welcomed into the youth group. These experiences allowed me to connect with God, my community, and my true self and helped to shape me into the person I am today.

Today, I couldn't be more proud of the church community that exists at St. Mark's. To me, this community can be summed up in one word – love. Love for oneself, love for one's family, love for one's community, love for God. And to further specify, unconditional love. Unconditional love for all who walk through our church doors and unconditional love for all those who will never step foot inside the church's walls. Here in this church, God says, "You belong, this is my family, and you have a place in it."

Love,
Patrick



Patrick currently serves as a Vestry member and Youth Group Leader.



Questions for Reflection:

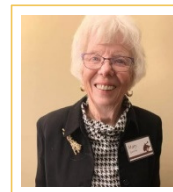
How do your practices of generosity come from and through your family heritage? What habits were ingrained in you?

I am Mary Guthrie. Each one of us who worships at St. Mark's has a unique reason for doing so. The Church meets several of my needs; however, my journey was a circuitous one.

I am a "cradle Episcopalian," born and raised in Newcastle, a small town in northeastern Wyoming. Christ Church, Episcopal, which is a very old, small church, was an important part of my life. I faithfully participated in church activities, including Sunday School, Vacation Bible Classes, youth group, and junior choir.

After being married, I drifted away from church. It was more fun to engage in outdoor recreation activities, than to make it to church on Sunday. When I was in my mid-thirties, I accompanied my sister to a conference in Boston. At that time, she was very active at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Basin, and she suggested that we should attend a service in a historic church. At first, I scoffed at the suggestion and joked that probably a bolt of lightning would strike me. She prevailed and at the service, I felt called to return to church. (Be assured that I didn't experience a "Road to Damascus" moment.)

I then started attending St. Mark's with my friend Marshall and have been an active member ever since, including serving on the vestry, Centennial Foundation, and as a Eucharistic minister and acolyte, which I obviously couldn't do as a young girl. St. Mark's gives me meaningful opportunities for worship and spirituality. I love the sense of community I experience each Sunday. Also, the Church's social justice initiatives and education opportunities are important to me.



These days you'll likely find Mary at the 8:00 a.m. service where she serves as lector and eucharistic minister.



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