

Memories of SABC by Becky Swackhammer

I was saved at around age 12. I was attending the church near my home and walked there because my friends were there. My Mom was saved the same year by listening to radio ministry. After Mom was saved, we all went (except Dad) to the Christian Union Church for a while, then to Tracy Creek Memorial, then to Ross Corners, where I started attending Pioneer Girls.



There I met Lois Stone (Strope), and Bonnie Hall (Walls) and we became fast friends. After a while we switched again and started attending SABC. We three did lots of things together, Youth Group, choir and singing trios.

I met Ed Swackhammer when he moved in across the street from my house when I was 16. My parents wouldn't let us "date", but we could go to Youth For Christ or any church services. He loved music even then, and he was saved at a Merrill Womach concert, then "came forward" for a public profession at SABC. Music was always a big part of our relationship. We went to choir practice, "Singspirations", and gospel concerts. We sang together all the time, publically and privately.

We were married in 1967 and I think we were the 2nd wedding in the new church building.

Our lives have been so blessed by the people at SABC. Glen and Helen Barnhart were very dear to us, and as youth leaders always encouraged us to "live our faith" and not to just hide it.

As a new young couple, we wanted to be involved with serving the Lord. Besides the choir, I worked in Pioneer Girls for a few years. I was blessed to work alongside Marie Andreasen and Edith Miles. Both were full of wisdom and godliness.

We also worked as leaders of the Youth Group for a few years with Doug and Maxine Strope. We took groups to Word of Life snow camp and many other adventures.

When our boys were old enough to attend Youth Group they didn't want us to be the leaders, so we resigned. Allen worked as a counselor at Boy's Brigade Camp one summer and Mark worked one summer at the Ranch.

My greatest joy through the years has been as a Pal in the Pal/Gal program. My Gals all remain very dear and special to me. Mary Hall (Johnson) was the first. She was the flower girl in my wedding; Lori Rudler came next and is now my daughter-in-law, then came Kristine Smith (Parrish), Sara Stephens, Kristen Holden and now Rachel Dodge.

I have served in many different areas; nursery, choir, SS teacher, Ladies Missionary Society, (time spent with those "Senior Saints" will always be treasured), special music, youth leaders, "Heart-to-Heart" and went on a mission trip to St. Thomas. What an adventure and what a blessing that was. The friendships formed and the memories of serving the Lord together were amazing.

God has been good and continues to bless me, and us, abundantly.