

Honoring Pattie Herbert

Caregiver to Lake Shore's Children and Building for Twenty Years



Pattie,
Just a little note tucked in with lots of thanks and love for you. I want you to know I appreciate your presence in my children's life — your teaching, caring and loving them. You carved out a place and welcomed them. Always loving you ...



— Kay Bailey

Pattie,

I'll never forget our mission trip to New York. We didn't know each other but were lucky enough to room together. You were the brave one who just had to have a "New York haircut" and dyed your hair in the room. I had a toothache and missed the trip (accompanied by about 50 children) to the Bronx Zoo. But we were instant friends and stayed up late every night telling stories and laughing! What fun we had! Thanks for the memories and good luck on your next adventure. Love,

— Mary Rowan

I have always enjoyed visiting with Pattie at Women's Retreats. Her off beat, down to earth humor always makes me laugh. This year her "girdle" story had everyone at the retreat laughing until our sides hurt. I do not believe I have ever heard Pattie complain even when serious health issues would make most of us moan and groan. I look forward to many more retreats and laughter with Pattie.

— Louise Powell

Whether a babysitter, friend, or boss, Pattie Herbert has been in our lives since we were infants. Thank you for always supporting us throughout our lives.

— Love, Emily & Hannah

Pattie Herbert is an amazing and gifted woman of God who loves people in a truly selfless and sacrificial way. She has shown me such kindness and generosity, often at times when she was ill or incredibly busy. Going "above and beyond the call" is just how Pattie lives her life. I don't think any of us will ever know just how much she has done in service to Lake Shore and the children of this church. I pray God will bless Pattie a thousand fold for all she does to bless others.

— Deborah Harris

Kind. Gregarious. Sweet. Compassionate. Nurturing. Pattie.

— Rachel Sciretti

How can you describe Pattie Herbert? The indomitable Energizer bunny? A contemporary Job? She has lived through more traumatic experiences and major health problems than anyone I know. The amazing thing is that she is always optimistic; she always pops right back to do her job — with a smile on her face. From the beginning of 1990 when Pattie was hired as church custodian until I retired in 2003, I was her supervisor — and her friend. She has lovingly cared for our building and our children for many years. Bless you, Pattie, as you begin another chapter of your life — free from unpleasant custodial duties, free from early morning vacuuming and worrying if things will stay clean from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning, free from overflowing trash bags and complaining church members. Thank you for your years of service to Lake Shore.

— Catherine Davenport

A memory about Pattie — I'll never forget her putting Emily in time out (Children's Center) for repeatedly taking off her shoes when Emily was 18 months old. We've laughed a lot about that because no child of mine could possibly wear shoes for more than an hour — it's genetic!

— Pam Smallwood

Pattie, we will miss your welcoming smile early every Sunday as we hurry in to get things ready for Sunday School. Thank you for always having the room ready for us and the children. We will miss you but we hope that you will be a continuing presence with us. Love,

— Helen and Sam Hastings

I couldn't begin to list the ways Pattie has been a blessing in our lives. Having no relatives close by, I don't know what we would have done without Pattie, someone we trusted and our kids loved, to help out. From before Hannah was born to this day Pattie has been someone who, despite her own battles, has always had time for words of encouragement, advice, love, friendship, and faith for me and my family. Even when we haven't talked for great lengths of time, she can make me feel important and like I can talk to her about anything. From validating my parenting skills, loving Nathan and Hannah unconditionally, doing garage sales, cleaning house, to encouraging Hannah in her first job, Pattie puts her all into everything she is involved in and is a model of perseverance.

Pattie is, and always will be, an important and special part of the Allen family story. Love,

— Pam, Rick,
Nathan & Hannah Allen

Pattie is as naturally wired to give as anyone I know. Yes, it's her business to care for babies but, in addition to that, she is almost always taking care of someone outside of work--a friend, colleague, or family in crisis--usually to well beyond what would be expected. When I think through the years of the times I've seen her go above and beyond for someone, I'm amazed. She is generous, kind, funny and warm and I'm glad Adam will be another in the long line of children loved and cared for by Miss Pattie.

— Dorisanne Cooper

I always enjoyed talking with Pattie real early on Sunday mornings. We were usually the first to get to church. She always had something interesting to talk about!

— Mike Sciretti

When I first went into the Armed Service I was told, "If you are ever in battle, pick your foxhole partner carefully. Will they in battle ever let you down?" Although at times over the years I thought she would drive me crazy, I would go into battle with her by my side any day.

— Bruce Neatherlin

When I think of Pattie, I think of faithfulness. Whenever there is/was a crisis in the congregation, Pattie was there. She opened the church early; she locked it up late at night. She made coffee; she arranged flowers; she moved furniture; she did whatever needed to be done. Her charm and faithfulness will be missed on a daily basis.

— Libby Bellinger

A memory that I will always have is of Pattie being there early every Sunday morning as I would be coming for Sunday School. The early morning bustle helped me get in "gear" for the children when they arrived. Also, Beth and I have fond memories of Miss Pattie staying with our boys when they were young.

— Gary Miller

Here are the words that say "Pattie" to us: humble and hardworking, generous and loving, faithful and lots of fun. She's a treasure!

— Buddy and Judy Prather

Anyone who is called to work with children has to be blessed with the gifts of joy, laughter, and great bundles of compassion. All of these Pattie shared so freely, and to them she added her own unique blend of humor, down-home care, and a genuineness that drew in all of us, young and young-at-heart alike. She embodies church, not just on Sunday but daily in countless and endless acts that represent the essence of love.

If you opened a Bible dictionary to the words "treasure in earthen vessel" from 2 Corinthians, I wouldn't be surprised to see Pattie's picture. When I think of someone who will "walk the mile and bear the load" for a friend, I think of Pattie. She has searched for my keys a hundred times, waited with me on dark nights until we were ready to leave church, surprised me by cleaning sinks full of dishes I left in the kitchen, brought burritos to Dorisanne and me on Sundays, stepped in at the last minute to care for children and, over the years, lifted enough boxes for me to fill a sanctuary-sized storage space. I wish I had a nickel for every time she's said, "I'll go" or "Girl, don't worry about it. I'll do that for you." Pattie has the rare gift for offering the right kind of care at the right time to meet the need that needs to be filled. She creates simple gifts that make life easier, more beautiful, funnier, stronger at the broken places.

Paul goes on to say that we do not lose heart though "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken, struck down, but not destroyed." Through every adventure, mishap, illness, crazy story and storm, Pattie endures – her spirit intact, her faith renewed, her big smile breaking forth from behind the tears, her confidence restored and ready for a new day. She does not lose heart. She gives it away.

—Sharlande Sledge