

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
10200 Shelbyville Road  
Shelbyville, KY 40223

June 21, 2017

Dear Church,

A few years ago, I coaxed my adult autistic son into attending the "Art as Memory" open house your church hosted. We were greeted warmly the minute we stepped into the fellowship hall. I kept being told, "You have to meet Candy! You need to speak with Candy!" As I was encouraging Sam to visit each artist's area and sample their style, some kind soul found Candy and brought her to us.

All those people were absolutely correct. We DID need to meet Candy! Little did we know we were about to enter a time of almost hell on earth and that Candy (through the studio, initially) would hold onto us.

The studio provides Sam with such a place of acceptance, refuge, artistic outlet, friendship, and interest. Actually, it does me as well!

I count myself a verbally adept person, but the studio is such a spiritual place for us that I am finding it difficult to express how incredibly important it is and what an anointed ministry your church has established and supports. We feel safe and cared for and listened to. There is a group of us who have been safely sharing our hearts with one another and being tender and healing. Safe spaces are a rare and blessed place!

And if I were to tell you the blessing that Candy has been to me, you would be swimming in my tears like The Mouse in Alice in Wonderland!

Our lives have been immeasurably blessed and enriched by our involvement with your church's pottery studio. Thank you for supporting and sharing this artistic/spiritual ministry with us.

In Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Melody K. & Samuel Knopf". The ink is dark and the writing is fluid.

Melody and Samuel Knopf