

Thursday - April 3

*Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.
Psalm 127:1 (NIV)*

Craig Askins was a long-time member of our church. He owned a farm on the west end of Powell Road stretching west toward the zoo with fields extending north of the road. Craig was tall and lanky with hair thinning and graying with age. His handshake was with his large bony hands of a retired dairy farmer.

Our family was new to Powell in late 1988. We began attending the church in 1989. We considered ourselves “Johnny-come-lately” as most of the work to build a new church facility was underway by a core group of church members who had worked so hard over recent decades to provide for this transition. Craig Askins was one of those foundational members who helped make this possible.

Craig was in his late seventies when we became more familiar with him. He was the one with the wagon pulled by his team of Belgian horses transporting Sanctuary items from the church in the village to the new church on that Sunday, January 14th, 1990.

I remember one Sunday morning service, Mr. Askins spoke from the pulpit, sharing a couple humorous stories, and providing testimony to the importance of involving ourselves in the work of church and community.

Craig donated two beautiful display cases made of cherry in memory of his late wife, Marguerite Askins. Mr. Askins had a carpenter friend who would build furnishings at Craig’s request. Next, a new altar table, replacing the one moved from the church in the village, was donated. This is the altar table we use today in the new Sanctuary. There are numerous crosses visible in the beautiful design using the cherry from Craig’s farm.

Alan Moore

Prayer: Gracious God, we give thanks for those who came before us to show us the way to be faithful to you. Their joy in serving you and connecting with the community is an example of your overwhelming love. Amen.