

LUCY RICH

Interviewed by: Sandy Bee Lynn



Lucy Rich is a legend at Emanuel. She's a storyteller, a historian, and a member of the church for 64 years! She's seen a lot of changes and will gladly share her stories with you about the growth of the church over the many years that she has attended.

Lucy Good met Edmund J. Rich in 1955 when they both attended the Akron Area Young Adults Fellowship. The group met twice a month and their particular meeting happened at a box social in Suffield. (For you youngsters, a box social is an event where individually prepared box lunches or dinners are auctioned off to the highest bidder who then has the privilege of sharing the meal with the preparer). Three years later, Lucy and Ed were married by Rev. Bob Johnson at Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church in Wadsworth where Lucy was a member. Emanuel used to have an annual Lawn Festival which was to be held on June 28 in 1958. Members of Emanuel agreed to change the date so that they could attend Lucy's wedding. I've included Lucy and Ed's wedding picture and the beautiful dress that Lucy is wearing was made by her!



Soon after their marriage (January 29, 1959), Lucy joined Emanuel and she and Ed began their long relationship with the church. She related how she was selected to be a Sunday School teacher - without an interview - and then started a Youth Group in April of 1959. She had taught 5-year-olds at Trinity when she was in high school saying that she was "exposed to leadership at a young age."

Lucy has two sisters and a brother. She lived on a farm in Montville Township. One of her responsibilities was gathering eggs. She was also a member of the Medina County Four-H in her youth.

Lucy remembers so many events at the church such as the parsonage being built in 1961. She also remembers when the church was "turned around." She also helped paint louvres from the steeple. She said they were about six feet tall and she wasn't sure who finished what she couldn't reach.

When asked about her most memorable moments she hesitated briefly before saying, "Singing in the choir and singing solo in 2015 with a Minnie Pearl hat; a mother-daughter banquet in the early 60s when she was asked to be a performer and was cast as a "high falutin'" woman; teaching the meaning of the Lord's Prayer to 5th graders at Bible School at Mount Zwingli in 1967 when renovations were being made at Emanuel and of course the birth of her son Peter in December of 1963.

If you need a history lesson about Emanuel United Church of Christ, Lucy Rich is the person you need to talk to. She said, "I came in as a new bride and look what we've accomplished in those 64 years."