

## Stewardship Corner

I grew up on North Hill in Akron in the 50s. We were not particularly a “church-going” religious family, but my mother was a Sunday School teacher at the North Hill Methodist Church that we attended. I also attended Brownie and Girl Scout meetings at the church. While attending the church, my mother befriended a woman named Laura McClure, who in 1957 founded an organization called Good Neighbors. Good Neighbors initially started collecting clothes for needy people in the North Hill neighborhood, and it is still in existence in Akron. I was always proud of my mother’s commitment to this organization.

We moved to Ellet when I was 13, and I started going to Oak Hill Presbyterian Church with my neighbor. By this time, my parents’ marriage was failing and neither of them attended church anymore. They stayed married for a number of more years until I graduated and one of my younger brothers also left home. I still had one brother at home in high school. I married young and didn’t attend church again until I was divorced and my children were in their teens. Unfortunately, they weren’t interested in joining me. I was a divorced mother of two teens, attending college and working 3-4 jobs at times. After awhile, attending church wasn’t in the mix anymore.

Shoot forward to 1989 when Glenn and I got married. Neither of us attended church at the time and we had to scramble to find a church to be married in. We were lucky to choose High Street Christian Church in downtown Akron, and were married by Pastor Karen Stunkel. We lived in Fairlawn and decided that downtown Akron was too far to go to church early Sunday morning!

Fast forward again and see us sitting at the kitchen table at our home in Doylestown on Sunday mornings - eating breakfast and reading the newspaper. One Sunday (about 5 or 6 years after we had married), we decided we needed to attend church. We tried many of the churches in Doylestown, even Emanuel and couldn’t commit. About nine years ago, we decided to try again and found our “Forever Home!” Pastor Gaye and the entire congregation were welcoming and we felt the love and the presence of God immediately. We have tried to be loyal and faithful members and continue to cherish our church family here at Emanuel - High Church. Our thanks for the welcome and the continued friendship and most of all the love and faith.

By the way, one brother now attends Oak Hill Presbyterian Church in Ellet and we have gone to many programs there as he sings in the choir. It’s fun to run into people I knew way back when.

In Faith and Love - Be Well my Friends,

Sandy Bee Lynn