

Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership Recipient

2022

Pat Lee Smith

Do you remember the old hymn with the line, "And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love?" Anyone meeting this soft-spoken woman would see she reaches out with Christian words of encouragement and offers her hands and feet to service. During her college days, she was a member of a service society whose purpose was to provide support for other women on their college journey while growing stronger in one's faith and focusing on fellowship, service, worship and study.

When she began working, her kindergarten students found her to be a kind and nurturing teacher. She regularly served as a nursery room volunteer. When she delivered Meals-On-Wheels, the food came with a smile and a kind word. She began a Friday Morning Prayer group, taught Vacation Bible School, hosted reverent and respectful Memorial receptions, served as a Deacon and an Elder, and directed the collection of personal care item kits for a women's shelter. Her caring heart is demonstrated by her training and serving as a commissioned Stephen Minister, with special training in topics such as divorce, bereavement, aging and hospitalization. I can't even tell you how many meals she has prepared for the needy, homeless, or lonesome and served them with compassion and empathy.

Her daughter remembers coloring or drawing while waiting for her mom to finish meetings at the church. "I thought she called them board meetings because they were boring!" she said, "but I also learned that it is wonderful to help others and share Christ's love. She certainly inspired me to do that in my own life."

This capable woman has started and chaired two PW Circles, served on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and been Moderator of the Presbyterian Women. And wait, did I mention that she did all of this during the 50 plus years before she moved to Burlington?

You might think she was ready to retire when she came to First Pres.- Burlington in 2016, but oh, no! She quickly joined a circle and a Sunday School class. She began hosting Mother's Day and Father's Day Celebrations at Twin Lakes and volunteering in the gift shop. She shops weekly for residents with limited mobility. Coble Creek sees her visiting with neighbors in need of companionship and a bit of spiritual encouragement. She continues her 15 year commitment to preparing Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child. She attends the Friendship Group and has volunteered with Vacation Bible School. Now has chaired her circle for the past 4 years. She is fast to raise her hand and say, "I'll help with that..."

Her devoted husband is often by her side as they work as a team, seeking ways to continue their service and devotion to God, their church and the community. It is amazing that there is time for their two grandchildren in Hillsborough with their daughter and son-in-law, but they dote on them whenever possible.

We are thankful that John Knox Presbyterian Church in Ohio shared Pat Smith with us when Pat moved to Burlington. We honor her as our Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership recipient for 2022.