



Member Spotlights

November, 2022 through August, 2025

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Spotlight Chronology

2022

November – Susan Clayton

2023

January – Brad and Trish Jones

February – Hugg Family

March – Joseph and Linda Dumizo

April – Austin Pegues

May – Fred and Peggy Bond

July – Al and Alice Sudduth

August – Susan Manning

September – Sarah Busse and AK Pharr

October – Mark and Judy Newbold

November – Elizabeth Mills

2024

January – Ross Family

February – Lovenia Summerville

March – Tim and Debbi Wilkes

April – Rosie Honeycutt

May – Wynn Mabry

June – Finn O'Brien

August – Marilyn and Alan England

September – Jeanne Kim

October – Charlotte Griffith

November – Cissy and Rich Byrd

2025

January – Bev Mitchell

February – Lisa Beer

March – Josh and Elyse Stevenson

August – Judy Grissom

Spotlights

Beer, Lisa

Lisa Beer—Member Spotlight—February 2025 (with a special focus on Social Justice)

If you attend worship at DCPC on any given Sunday, you'll most likely hear "Welcome! We're glad you're here! We are a welcoming, affirming, and inclusive faith community where all are one in Christ."

Lisa Beer is naturally drawn to those words. She knows them well. Several years after she and her husband Brad moved to the area, she became aware of conversations within the congregation about exploring ways DCPC could become more committed to justice issues. Having experienced both conservative and liberal congregations in CA, she was intrigued by these conversations.



Lisa soon found herself joining others with the same interest, and, in 2018, during Rev. Scott Kenefake's interim pastorate, a group of folks began meeting regularly to explore inclusivity along with other social justice topics. Lisa was deeply inspired by the passion and welcoming spirit of the group and their vision of how these important areas could strengthen and support DCPC's mission. Under the outstanding leadership of Heather McKee, a Social Justice Committee was established in 2019. Lisa feels blessed to have worked with Heather for several years before

chairing the committee in 2023 and 2024. The committee focuses on issues of racial equity, economic justice, LGBTQIA+ issues and equality, environmental justice, and gun violence prevention.

Through the work of this committee and our pastors, members of the congregation had the opportunity to visit the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, AL. In 2024, the Social Justice team organized DCPC's participation in both Charlotte's "Pride Parade," an event affirming and celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community and a trip to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro. "Guns to Gardens," a program providing on site education and training on dismantling guns and repurposing them into garden tools was sponsored this month, and the group is currently studying Matthew Desmond's book Poverty, by America. The Social Justice Committee, now chaired by Mike Hogan, has gained momentum over the years, and Lisa is delighted to say that their work continues to grow within different groups and ministries within the church. Our various Sunday Faith Formation Classes and other DCPC ministries have studied social justice and participated in social justice work.



Beyond Lisa's passion for social justice, she enjoys bicycling, pickleball, golf, gardening, and reading! She also delights in visiting her mom, Greta McCrea, at the Pines with the bonus of seeing lots of her DCPC friends!

"Above all, clothe yourself with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." Colossians 3:14

~written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Committee



Lisa at the recent **Guns to Gardens** event along with DCPC's Wayne Utley and Bill Hatfield.



Bond, Fred and Peggy

May Member Spotlight

As children growing up in the same neighborhood in Birmingham, Alabama, little did Peggy or Fred Bond know that they would one day be college classmates. With the passing of time and their friendship growing, they would eventually marry and begin a new life together! What a sweet love story. Birmingham was their starting point in a decades-long life venture together. Davidson is home for the Bonds now, having moved here in 2015.

At Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, Fred majored in mechanical engineering and his work in this field led him to different cities throughout Florida. Peggy established her career as a realtor, primarily in Pensacola.

Peggy and Fred have two grown children. Daughter Chris Ahearn, a DCPC member, co-chaired our Opening Doors Capital Campaign! (Chris and her husband Jack are parents to Abby and Alex and grandparents to Cora and Aiden.) Peggy and Fred's son, Allan, lives close by in Charlotte. Putter, a Shih Tzu, is a beloved part of the Bond Family as well.

Both Peggy and Fred are Elders of the church through their former congregation, Trinity Presbyterian in Pensacola. Fred presently sings in our Chancel Choir. He has served two years on the A&P (Administration and Personnel) Committee. Peggy has been involved in the Membership Committee and was a former chair of SAGES, DCPC's wonderful fellowship and service group for those who are 65 and older. She is an Usher and Greeter at the 11:00 worship service. Watch for her friendly smile! Together they are actively engaged in a variety of events organized by SAGES.

Peggy, an avid reader, enjoys fictional novels, historical fiction, and mysteries. Fred has laid aside his tennis racket and his violin, but he joins Peggy in golfing and playing Bridge. In past years, Fred found joy in woodwork turnings, creating lovely bowls and vases.

From Webster:

Bond: a relationship between people or groups based on shared feelings, interests, or experiences. "There was a bond of understanding between them."

Heartfelt thanks to Peggy and Fred for the Christian bonds we share!



Busse, Sarah

September Member Spotlight – Sarah Busse & AK Pharr

Sarah Busse and AK (Anna Katherine) Pharr have shared a whole lot of life together! Although they're quite young, these recent Confirmands will tell you that they were both born in the same hospital, in the same year, in the same month, only three days apart! Their births were just the beginning of a growing friendship that has spanned their entire lives. Where do they both live? Here in Davidson. Which neighborhood? The same one. And their faith community? DCPC! Interestingly, with their strong ties to the area, AK's dad and Sarah's mom attended the same high school. So many wonderful commonalities and connections!

Sarah and AK fondly recall their earliest years as students attending DCPC's wonderful preschool program. And they still remember their teachers, Miss Laura and Miss Nancy. What a strong and loving impact these faithful teachers made on Sarah and AK's formative years! Those years were filled with creative learning experiences including the wonder and magic of releasing butterflies and exciting Easter egg hunts in the spring. AK's mom, Summer Pharr, worked as a teacher in DCPC's preschool program, introducing the Enrichment Program. Sarah's mom, Hunter Busse, was the preschool's Assistant Director for 6 years.

Both AK and Sarah sang in the choir under the faithful leadership of Elizabeth Mills, Stephanie Malushizky, Monica Galloway, Jane Cain, DCPC's Director of Music Emerita, and more recently, David Brinson, our Director of Music. AK played the handbells for a brief period. Presently both AK and Sarah are involved with our Sunday evening youth group. They enjoy the meals and games shared with others, and the learning activities associated with our faith. Both Sarah and AK are thankful for the awesome leadership of their youth advisor, Catherine Bragg, and DCPC's Staff Associate for Youth Ministry, Matt Wiggins.

This year AK will begin 9th grade at the Community School of Davidson. Her favorite subjects in the past have been Science (specifically Chemistry) and both contemporary dance and ballet. She's been on the swim team and is planning to begin Lacrosse in the spring.

Sarah, also beginning 9th grade, will attend Lake Norman Charter School. She has enjoyed the creative aspects of art in the past, but also gravitates to the challenges of Math. Sarah's favorite sports are tennis and volleyball.

When Sarah and AK were recently confirmed, they entered into full confession and affirmation of faith. What a joyful time for our congregation! During this Confirmation, process our church family pledged to pray for and support them, and all our Confirmands, on their faith journeys. We continue to encourage and pray for Sarah, AK, and all of our DCPC Confirmands!

Written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of DCPC's Membership Ministry





Member Spotlight



Sarah Busse & AK Pharr!

Byrd, Cissy and Rich

Did someone say “camp?” Cissy and Rich Byrd sure did. Camp – it’s where they met, where they served, worked, and fell in love. The Byrds met in 1979 at Eagle’s Nest Camp where Cissy was a counselor and Rich served as a clinician during his family medicine residency. At the time, the camp offered sessions for children with diabetes. Cissy and Rich have had a long connection with Eagle’s Nest and hold fond memories of their associations there. Cissy attended the camp as a child, as did their children and grandson. She presently serves on the Board of Trustees of Eagle’s Nest Foundation, a nonprofit organization. Eagle’s Nest sits near the lovely town of Brevard, just a 45-minute drive from Asheville.

Rich grew up in Louisville, KY, and Cissy in Davidson. In fact, she lived in the house directly behind our Congregation House! Through her growing years, Cissy took part in many of DCPC’s ministries and programs. The Byrds were married at DCPC in 1980 by Rev. Charles E. Raynal III, who was serving our congregation at the time. Jane Cain, Director of Music Emeritus, played the organ at their wedding, one of her very first weddings!



If you want to go fast, go alone...
If you want to go far, go together!

Did someone say “biking?” The Byrds sure did. They’ve biked extensively over the course of their marriage. Together they’ve pedaled through forty-nine states and parts of Canada and Europe! They especially loved the west coast and Rocky Mountains and are quick to say that they’ve enjoyed the many small towns and back roads that enabled them to experience the beauty and diversity of our country. Cissy and Rich continue to be avid tandem cyclists, sometimes pulling a small trailer behind them. Perhaps you’ve seen them riding through Davidson or to church.



For thirty-seven years Cissy and Rich lived in Spartanburg, SC. Rich worked in emergency medicine, and Cissy as a preschool teacher at



their local Presbyterian church. Together they shared in the joy of raising their four boys – Nathan, Taylor, Andrew, and Michael. Wonderful years they were, living on a small lake where the boys enjoyed swimming, boating, camping, sports, and music. The “boys” are all married now, and there are four grandchildren who have joined the family!

Presently, Rich skillfully plays his bass guitar as part of our 9:45 Music Team. He also works in the AV booth – controlling cameras, videos, sound, and slides – all necessary components that enhance our worship services. Cissy is a substitute teacher at our preschool and participates in our partnership with Blythe Elementary School, assisting with luncheons and teacher support.



Did someone say they love their faith community?

Did someone say they’re blessed by being a part of a welcoming, affirming and inclusive congregation? Did someone say they’re surrounded by a Body of Christ that faithfully encourages and supports them? Cissy and Rich Byrd sure did!

~written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Committee



Clayton, Susan

Member Spotlight - Meet Susan Clayton!

Susan is our very first DCPC member to be highlighted in our new monthly *Member Spotlight*. The *Member Spotlight* is a recent “re-initiative” of the Membership Committee!

Susan and her husband, Tom – her college sweetheart, live in Davidson. Although Susan has lived in Kentucky, Indiana, and Florida, she and Tom always dreamed of living in Davidson. Tom is a graduate of Davidson College, and Susan graduated from Queens College in nearby Charlotte, NC. Their dream of moving to this area became a wonderful reality when they settled here eight years ago. Cecil and Jennie Clifton, fellow DCPC members, extended an especially warm welcome to them, and they have all enjoyed a special friendship and active participation in the life of our congregation ever since. Susan and Tom have two daughters, one daughter in Durham and the other in Memphis; and they are proud grandparents of a seven-year-old grandson.

Susan’s greatest joy in serving our Lord is through her work in quilting. She lovingly creates a special quilt for every newborn DCPC baby on behalf of our New Baby Committee, a sub-committee under our Congregational Care umbrella. These personal quilts provide a welcome into our church family and serve as a tangible means of wrapping each tiny child in God’s love. Susan is also involved with the quilting ministry at Davidson Methodist Church, and at DCPC she enjoys Short Story Theology – a study of life, literature, and faith. Susan is also active in the resettlement of our two Afghan refugee families.

As a fascinating sidenote, Susan served on the call committee at her former home congregation, Eastminster Presbyterian in Evansville, IN. There, Robert Alexander was called to serve at that church as Director of Christian Education! Both of Susan’s daughters enjoyed Robert’s leadership in their faith journeys. What a wonderful small-world story!

We are blessed to have Susan as a faithful friend and member of our DCPC family!

Susan Clayton and her beautiful quilts! These quilts are from an exhibit in the Sacred Threads quilt show in Herndon, Virginia. Susan's Black Lives Matter quilt was gifted to the Ada Jenkins Center in Davidson, NC. The dinosaur quilt was Susan's gift to her grandson, Henry, in 2021. These are quilts that Susan made for friends! This is a quilt Susan gave to one of her dear friends. They had the opportunity to spend five weeks in Vienna, Austria the summer of 1969. They would frequently visit the museum where the Klimt painting, The Kiss, is displayed. This quilt is a celebration of the beautiful painting and their friendship over the years.

Susan Clayton and her beautiful quilts!



These quilts are from an exhibit in the Sacred Threads quilt show in Herndon, Virginia.





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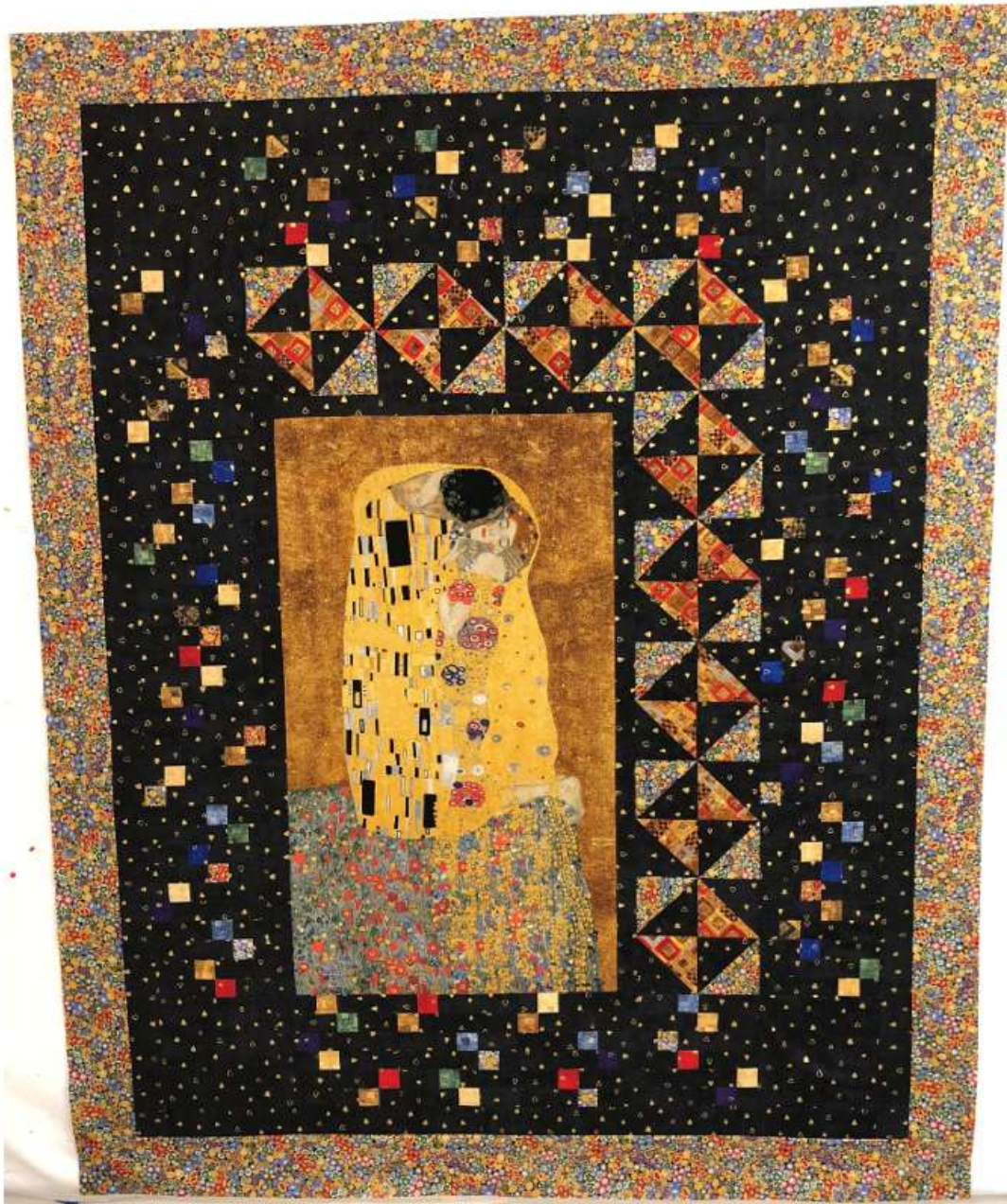


The dinosaur quilt was Susan's gift to her grandson, Henry, in 2021.

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Member Spotlight



*Susan
Clayton!*

Dumizo, Linda

What do grapes and a woodwind instrument have in common? If you ask **Linda or Joseph Dumizo**, they could tell you. She loves making music, and he loves making wine! You might have noticed Linda and Joseph ushering at the 11:00 service, or perhaps you've heard their talents as flutist and cajon percussion leader as part of the 9:45 service Music Team. Joseph also serves faithfully on the Property Committee. They've been members of our church since 2020.

Linda and Joseph live in the Highland Creek Community in Charlotte, having moved to this area from Mt. Holly. Joseph is the owner and Broker-in Charge of Premier Choice Realty. He's worked in this capacity since 2005. The real estate business keeps Joseph quite busy, therefore, he's grateful for Linda's assistance with marketing and daily administrative tasks.

It was the flute that originally connected Linda to DCPC. Back in 2006, a flutist was needed for a children's program under the direction of Jane Cain, DCPC Director of Music Emerita. Linda, a well-known local flutist, was invited by a member of the church to take the part, and she gladly accepted the role.

Linda enjoys creating art. Her favorite mediums are pen and ink, acrylic paints, watercolors and pastels. Her favorite subjects are landscapes and flowers. Linda is the Artist-in-Residence for Caritas Acapella Ensemble, a Charlotte based vocal group. For this musical non-profit organization, Linda's role is to create artistic program covers and marketing materials for their concerts. She has also served on the Board of Directors, Front of House Point Person, and performs as flutist for this group.

Linda has been working as a private music instructor for over 40 years. She tutors young children in both flute and piano, as well as some beginner guitar. She's the co-president of the Charlotte Flute Association. This organization exposes middle and high school students to performance opportunities. She also enjoys performing with the Charlotte Flute Choir. How wonderful! Linda regularly rehearses as flutist, with the various choirs in the church and plays at all three worship services. What an incredible way to share her musical gifts.

While Linda sits by her easel, Joseph stands as master chef by the grill. His specialty is mouth-watering pork ribs! Joseph's most passionate hobby is the art of making fine homemade wines. He became intrigued about the topic in 2014 while visiting a variety of wineries in NC and one in St. Augustine, FL. With some years of experimentation, Joseph fine-tuned the process of fermentation. He fondly remembers his late mother, Sarah Idufe, making her own wine from corn! It was called "qwatcha" by the locals and was known to be the best in their tribal village of Babungu, located in the NW Province in the Republic of Cameroon, West Africa.

While growing up in Cameroon, Joseph's mother Sarah was an elder in the Presbyterian church. Sarah and her mother were among the very first converts to Christianity back in the early 1900's. The headquarters of the Presbyterian Mission was located in a tribal village, a 2-day journey by foot from their own village. Sarah and her mother had to learn the dialect of that tribe in order to understand what had been translated by the missionaries. Talk about the work of the Holy Spirit! At about age 10, Joseph remembers being given the special honor of being chosen as part of the rotation of bell ringers on Sunday mornings. The very large bell was hung from a branch in a tree in front of the church and was rung at 6:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and again at 9:45 a.m. In Joseph's dialect, the sound of the bell ringing is known as "buh mbing." In late 2019, Linda and Joseph began to feel that the Holy Spirit was leading them to become members of DCPC. On one particular Sunday, as they arrived for church, Joseph heard the bell ringing and he exclaimed, "That's the exact same tone of the bell from my childhood church!" They knew at that moment that DCPC would become their new church home.

Together, Joseph and Linda enjoy walking, swimming, and boating, and are both currently excited about preparing for Linda's daughter's upcoming wedding in early 2024!

Linda and Joseph share their favorite Bible verses:

Linda:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Joseph:

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2

~written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Ministry

Member Spotlight



*Joseph & Linda
Dumizo!*

England, Marilyn and Alan

Marilyn England and Alan England (posthumous) - Member Spotlight August 2024

"Marilyn, how did you and your husband, Alan, meet?"

"We kissed on the night we met."

Little did Marilyn or her late husband, Alan, know that in 1975, when auditioning for parts in the play "Born Yesterday," in a small theatre in Mechanicsburg, PA, that that improv kiss would lead to a 46-year marriage. They both got the parts and following auditions, celebrated with ice cream at a local Howard Johnsons. How sweet!

Marilyn, a self-described "song and dance girl," performed in more than 50 plays throughout her life, beginning in childhood where involvement in the theatre was encouraged. Plays, musicals, comedy, drama – she loved it all. An accomplished actress, Marilyn assumed major roles like Aldonza in "Man of La Mancha," (her very favorite), and Ouiser in "Steel Magnolias." Her eyes light up as she fondly recalls "Into the Woods," "Mame," "Company," and other wonderful experiences on stage.

With theatre days behind her now, Marilyn has become a prolific reader, enjoying all genres. She "fell in love" with scripture after joining DCPC in 2007 and continues this love through the Wednesday Morning Bible Study. Currently, Marilyn also sings in our Chancel Choir and is a member of the DCPC Book Club. Together, with Alan, she was an active participant in the weekly "Preacher's Workshop." She served on the Reception Committee for the Organ at Davidson series, and for over 10 years she sang in the Choral Arts Society at Davidson College.

When Marilyn reflects on her loving years with Alan, she says, "We talked. We talked about so many things! We were good friends in marriage." "He was kind. He was serious. A man who loved the Lord and could capture the Word. A reader. A poet." Alan was a man with exquisite gifts of writing. His words jumped right off the page and into your heart. And yet Alan, with deep humility and sincerity would occasionally say, "Thank you for doing my laundry."

Did you know Alan? Perhaps you knew that he served in the Marine Corps Reserves. Perhaps you knew that he volunteered at Novant Hospital in Huntersville. Perhaps he might have visited you when you were hospitalized. But did you know that he served over 2,000 hours spanning more than 14 years in that capacity? Did you know of the countless bedsides where he stood, listening, comforting, praying? Did you know that hospital visitation was his call, his passion, his ministry?

Marilyn will joke that every day Alan enjoyed a turkey burger and fries in the hospital cafeteria. It was there that Alan would meet Bonita, a cafeteria worker who shared his passion for the Word and care for the hospitalized. They engaged in many conversations about scripture and faith. And when Alan became quite ill and eventually died, Bonita lovingly arranged for a special bench in his memory to be installed in the hospital courtyard. On May 17, 2024, a collection of friends and hospital volunteers gathered for the dedication of that bench.

Alan shared Marilyn's love of the theatre, and performed in more than 80 plays himself, including his role as Marley in "A Christmas Carol" at Theatre Charlotte where he performed this role for six consecutive years. Alan was a Stephen Minister and supervisor of leadership. He was an Usher and an active member of the Brindisi and Wednesday Morning Bible Studies.

Beyond his many years of service, Alan was a fisherman, a true "fisher of men." Casting his pole over the waters in Canada, Florida, and upstate New York, he found joy in being with friends and his son, Mark, in the beauty of nature and the lure of lakes and oceans.

It started with a kiss. But the love that Marilyn and Alan shared with each other does not have an ending. Marilyn is thankful for the continued care and memories she receives from Alan's children, Mark and Kim, and for the support and prayers of her DCPC family and friends.

~written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Committee



Member Spotlight



Marilyn & Alan England!

Griffith, Charlotte

Charlotte Griffith - Member Spotlight October 2024

“And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8

Back in 1998, when Davidson was just a sleepy little town, Charlotte, her husband Pete, and their three young children, Duncan, Wyatt and Kelsey moved to the area. Charlotte certainly has seen population growth in Davidson, the new construction in housing, and an increase in traffic. But since her move from Atlanta twenty-six years ago, she’s also witnessed a different and wonderful kind of growth. It was here in Davidson that she and her family discovered an invitation and warm welcome to our growing church. It was here that her children grew in love and meaningful experiences in DCPC’s Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Preschool. And it wasn’t long before Charlotte experienced her own personal growth - in faith, in service, and in care for others. She created and grew a new women’s circle for mothers with young children. For seven years she served as the fundraiser chair for Davidson Elementary School. She worked part-time as a substitute teacher at DCPC’s preschool. And she found great joy working for almost six years at The Wooden Stone Gallery (now closed), a lovely Davidson store featuring homemade crafts by skilled artists from the Asheville area and throughout the US.

Born in New Orleans, LA, Charlotte grew up in Charlottesville, VA. She describes her childhood as ideal, growing up under the loving care of her parents; her mother, a pillar at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, and her father, a professor of law at the University of Virginia. She has two sisters living in Boston and a brother, a Presbyterian ordained minister, currently serving as college chaplain at Muskingum University in Ohio. Charlotte graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University with a degree in sociology/anthropology, and she worked as a paralegal and then the attorney recruiting coordinator for a large Atlanta law firm.

Charlotte continues to grow as an avid reader. With membership in two book clubs, she’s drawn to historic fiction and many other genres. She volunteers at Angels and Sparrows, a community table and resource center for families and individuals needing assistance with food, health, education and more. And she walks every morning with her two rescued beagle siblings, Ozzie and Pippa.



Charlotte has served faithfully as Moderator of Presbyterian Women. She recently completed her second term, an extended three-and-a-half-year period. DCPC's six circles enable women to gather and grow in love, in mutual support, and in the Word. Presbyterian Women invite all women of the church to join a circle, each circle meeting at a different location and time. They come together to host one or two annual events, typically including a lovely luncheon and occasionally honoring those with lifetime membership and work in the church.



Under the umbrella of Community Missions, Charlotte has co-chaired DCPC's annual Day of Service. This program, occurring every year, invites all to serve in a variety of ways throughout the greater community. The Day of Service has grown over the years and includes numerous wonderful opportunities to benefit nonprofit organizations, families and individuals. Charlotte, in conjunction with Presbyterian Women, continues to oversee a delicious luncheon for all volunteers after they've completed their service. **This year's Day of Service is Saturday, November 2nd, and Charlotte encourages you to sign up!**

Growth. It can be hard. It can take time. But growth can be good! Find growth here, in Davidson. And at DCPC. And in yourself!

From Luke 2:52, "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

~written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Committee.



Grissom, Judy

Judy Grissom - Member Spotlight August 2025

Opening a book about Judy's life is like sinking into a comfortable chair and getting ready for a wonderful read. Every page filled with meaningful, impactful experiences - Life with husband Eddie on the farm in western Rowan



County - Lovely days of mothering children Scott and Autumn - Incredible travels to China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and beyond - Decades of dedicated work in the education field - And even more recently, years as a faithful sister in Christ here at DCPC.

Judy has opened many books throughout her life, perhaps beginning as a child when her little hands turned pages in picture books - And then, as a mother, reading lovingly to her own children. We can wonder when reading, the foundation of education, inspired her to enter a most rewarding and nurturing world of teaching.

Dr. Judy Grissom began her love of education as an elementary teacher in Greensboro. Her career then evolved into many aspects of the educational arena. She initiated the first program for gifted students in Rowan County and



later advanced to Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum. She will tell you that assuming the position of Principal at East Forsyth High School, with a student body of 1,700, brought her both great challenges and rewards. Following eight years as Associate Superintendent in the Alamance-Burlington Schools, Judy ended her career as Superintendent in the Rowan-Salisbury School System when her husband became terminally ill. What an incredible inspiration Judy has been to countless students, parents, and colleagues - 45 years in the field of education!



There are pages in books, yes chapters, filled with tragedy and deep sorrow. Judy knows well those pages - Pages of the passing of her husband Eddie - Pages of the loss of her son Scott who endured a fatal car accident in 1989. And then there are the joyful pages - Pages of the surprising, unexpected blessing of purchasing a home right next door to her daughter (and fellow DCPC member), Autumn Michael! Living next door to Autumn, her husband Jeff, and their four children, Boone, Della Scott, Mary Kirk, and Sarah Frances, has brought Judy immeasurable joy. Days are filled with family dinners, sport activities, dance performances, and "Uber-ing" the grandchildren!

Books can be read. Books can be written. Through her creative mind and retirement years, Judy has produced several books for her family including stories of her own life and, following extensive genealogy research, stories of her mother's family, a family cookbook, and story and picture books for two of her grandchildren who have graduated from high school. Wonderful!



Presently, Judy serves faithfully on the Membership Committee and offers a friendly welcome as an 11:00 and Summer Worship Greeter. She enjoys the sisterhood she shares with Presbyterian Women Circle 7 and the comfort and support she receives from the Healing and Support group.

As students and teachers head back to their classrooms this fall, Judy feels a familiar tug at her heart, and a little butterfly in her stomach. And with her wisdom as mother, teacher, and friend in faith, she'll likely open yet another book, and another and another...

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." Romans 15:4

~written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Committee



Member Spotlight



Judy Grissom!

Honeycutt, Rosie

April 2024 Member Spotlight - Rosie Honeycutt

Where do I belong? How do I find my way home? Questions Rosie Honeycutt has asked herself throughout her life.

Born in Central America in the lovely country of Belize, Rosie lived deep in the rainforest. Her immediate neighbors were no closer than a mile away! As a child growing up in Belize she loved caring for 112 chickens, and she will tell you they each had different personalities! When she was twelve, she moved to Florida and lived with her grandparents. The years that followed found her living in different parts of the country. In 2007, however, she attended a Disciple Bible Study here at DCPC where she “fell in love” with the church and officially joined our congregation. A subsequent move to Michigan unearthed for Rosie a deeply heartfelt longing for her home church. Eventually, she rejoined DCPC in 2013. But, alas, in 2021 her husband Chris was transferred to CA. During this Covid time, she worshipped virtually but longed for her church family in Davidson. Throughout all these years of moves, transfers, and unknowns, it was a labor of love to finally uproot the family once again in 2023 and return to Davidson and the church she loves.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Rosie is a proud Wolverine (and especially proud of their NCAA Division Football National Championship!). She majored in Kinesiology, a study of the movement of the body and how joints and muscles work together. She met her husband Chris, a Michigan State University grad, during her college years.

Rosie and Chris have welcomed four dearly loved children into their family: son Ketcher, 18; son Hayden, 14; daughter Tilly, 12; and son Foster, 6. Rosie and Chris are grateful that in 2021 Hayden was able to be confirmed virtually when they were living in California! Hayden was the very first virtual confirmand in DCPC history!

This busy mom loves physical exercise, especially running and yoga. She has participated in numerous 5Ks and Tough Mudder events in the area. She also creates art by using acrylic and watercolors to paint houses. With little free time on her hands, she hopes to one day return to her love of knitting.

Rosie was a former Co-Chair of our annual blood drive. She served faithfully as a volunteer with DCPC’s VBS (Vacation Bible School) programs, overseeing children’s arts and crafts. Our current second graders are delighted to have Rosie as their dearly loved Sunday School teacher, and their faces light up when they see her. Rosie is also a part-time substitute teacher at DCPC’s Weekday Preschool, a position she adores.

Where do I belong? How do I find my way home? The answer, for Rosie, has always been here, at Davidson College Presbyterian Church. Welcome home, Rosie. We’re so glad you’re here!

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)

~written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Ministry



Member Spotlight



Rosie Honeycutt!

Hugg Family

Member Spotlight February 2023

Do you know the Huggs? Paige, Joe, and their children Campbell Jane (7) and Amelia (5) are an active young family. Paige hails from Knoxville, TN, and Joe from New Orleans, LA. They moved to Davidson from New Orleans five years ago, and it didn't take long for them to join DCPC and to become actively involved in the life of our congregation!

Joe recently finished his term as a Deacon, serving the last year as Moderator of the Diaconate. He was also involved on the Congregational Care Committee. Paige has served in VBS (Vacation Bible School) in the past and will be volunteering again in DCPC's Intergenerational Bible School this June. Paige, Joe and their daughters enjoy the 9:45 Sunday School Connections classes, and they faithfully attend Wednesday evening Faith Formation (Kids' Club and choir). The whole family finds Wednesday evenings a wonderful opportunity to meet and connect with others, and they appreciate the delicious mid-week suppers!

As a family they love playing games and have acquired a special interest in Harry Potter. The Huggs enjoy traveling. They especially love the NC mountains, Lake Lure, and Dollywood. They're eager to explore new places and hope to go to Disney World sometime soon. Both girls are involved in gymnastics, art, and Davidson scouting. At Pine Lake Preparatory School they're engaged in the Spanish Immersion Program. Muy bien! What an active family!

We're so grateful to have Paige, Joe, Campbell Jane, and Amelia as part of our church family, and we thank them for their continued service in our Lord's name. Thank you Hugg family!



Jones, Brad and Trish

Member Spotlight January 2023

Meet **Brad and Trish Jones**! You may know Trish, our very own DCPC bookkeeper, who's faithful held that position for 17 ½ years. Trish originally hails from MD and UT and Brad from SC, but they met at Clemson University where they began a love for each other and for the Clemson Tigers! They currently live in Mooresville and are loving parents to twin daughters Riley and Maggie. Riley and Maggie were the first set of twins that former DCPC pastor Charlie Raynal baptized! Riggs, their black lab, is a beloved part of the family.

Aside from her work as bookkeeper, Trish has a wonderful gift of organizing, and has lovingly organized all the closets in the church! Most recently, she, along with Sarah Allred, tackled the custodian's closet, no small feat! These loving tasks have simplified the day-to-day functioning of our church and our numerous ministries. Trish has also painted many of the rooms within the church building.

Brad has served as sound board coordinator for over 10 years. This heard (but unseen) ministry has been a vital part of our worship services, and we are so thankful for his commitment! He has also been a member of the Property Committee in years past. Trish and Brad have been involved with our annual Day of Service for many years. This year they provided support for the Feed NC Soup Kitchen. They, along with Riley and Maggie, have served as ushers for more than 15 years.

Just before Christmas (2022), Trish and Brad celebrated 30 years of marriage! They plan to celebrate in a very special way this October when they join others on a trip to Greece, "Following the Footsteps of Paul," led by John Ryan! How exciting! What an awesome way to celebrate!

We are grateful for the gifts that Trish and Brad lovingly share with our church family. May God continue to bless them and their family in years to come.



Member Spotlight



*Brad & Trish
Jones!*

Kim, Jeanne

Jeanne Kim — Member Spotlight September 2024

She loves quesadillas and burgers. Her favorite season is fall. And she'll share with you an interesting conversation about nuclear physics.

Meet Jeanne Kim, a junior here at Davidson College. Perhaps you've heard and seen Jeanne playing her violin as part of the 9:45 worship music team. Or maybe she's cared for your child in our congregation's childcare ministry during our worship services. Any encounter with Jeanne would surely bring her ready smile, sweet disposition, and caring ways.



Jeanne was born in Rockville, MD (near DC), and eventually moved with her family to nearby Gaithersburg. It was there that she and her younger sister, Jireh, grew up. Jeanne attended public school, and on Saturdays enjoyed special learning opportunities at the local Korean school. Her favorite childhood memories include wonderful family trips to beautiful Cancun and experiencing the incredible Chichen Itza. But Jeanne also recalls her sweet grandmother visiting from South Korea and tending a lovely vegetable garden in her family's large backyard.



When Jeanne was considering a potential college, she longed for a small school where she could be part of a caring and close-knit community. Davidson College became the perfect place, evident in the friendships she's made, the readily available professors she's come to know, and her genuine feeling that this is her "home away from home." Currently she's enjoying an apartment shared with four other women, and she's actively engaged in the Davidson College Symphony Orchestra, the African Drumming Ensemble, Rusk Eating House, and the Student Engagement Ambassador program, an organization that connects current students with Davidson alumni.



As a Physics major with a Data Science minor, Jeanne has taken advantage of several internships offered by the college. During the summer of 2023 she worked with professors Dr. Michelle Kuchera, and Dr. Raghu Ramanujan, building models to predict nuclear physics data using python coding. And in 2024 she served at the Ada Jenkins Center through the Freedom School Program as a third to fifth grade teacher. Through this experience Jeanne says she learned a lot about herself and gained valuable leadership skills.

With a gentle push from her mom, Jeanne began private instrumental lessons in childhood. Now an accomplished violinist, she knows well the love language of music. Arpeggio. Con sordini. Staccato. How deftly she plays her violin! How eloquently she graces our congregation and worship! In her words, Jeanne expresses herself through music and through this means, she worships God.

As part of our congregation's Adopt-a-Student program, Jeanne receives caring support from Carol and David Houle, her "adoptive parents." And UKirk, our campus ministry program, continues to embrace her with the love of God through community, compassion, and prayer.

If you see Jeanne, ask her about her violin. Or her latest physics project. Or where she finds those scrumptious burgers. She'll be smiling and happy to tell you!



*~written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Committee
(Tom & Lynn Cushing were also Jeanne's Host Family when she became a member of DCPC!)*



Mabry, Wynn

Wynn Mabry Member Spotlight - May 2024

Somewhere in Wynn's home, perhaps on a bookshelf or lying on a table, sits an album – an album so full of love that it's literally bursting at the seams. Pictures, handwritten letters, clippings, love notes, all compiled by Wynn and his wife Mary Ann's four children – Elizabeth, Juliana, Clark, and Madelynn. This gift of tremendous love was presented to Wynn and his devoted wife of 45 years in celebration of their joint 60th birthdays. The year was 2005, and Wynn had just retired from 30 years of service as a military physician in the US Air-force. With years of relocations behind them, Wynn and Mary Ann were delighted to finally settle down in Davidson where their youngest daughter had just graduated from the college. It was a joyful time, a new beginning. And yet, amidst all the wonder and excitement, Wynn and his children would, unfortunately, become aware of Mary Ann's heart-breaking diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer. Grey clouds suddenly hung over the family, revealing fears of unknown tomorrows. The album, so abundant in love, became not only a gift of celebration, but a tribute to a woman facing a difficult journey.

Wynn and Mary Ann joined DCPC in 2005, especially grateful for the stability of a new church family and for the love that surrounded them. The creation of a small support group helped to carry Mary Ann through difficult days filled with many trials. While Wynn helped in caring for Mary Ann during her eight-year battle, he also served as Director of the Mecklenburg County Homeland Security and Health Departments until he fully retired in 2013.

A man of profound discipline, integrity, and service, Wynn can tell tales of blending family and military life in Texas, California, Illinois, Nebraska and Washington DC. He can speak of the wonder of life in Spain and in Germany. He can recall the joy of soaring through the skies in Texas, piloting over 200 hours of Air Force basic flight training aircraft which prepared him for future assignments in F- 4 and F-15 fighter squadrons in Europe. And he could report on his experience during unsettling times in the Middle East. But mostly, Wynn will share the story of the love of his life.

They met at Dartmouth where Wynn was an undergraduate premed student and Mary Ann was in nursing school. They dated, fell in love, got married and welcomed four lovely children. Wynn will remind you that it was Mary Ann who was the family's "center of gravity." It was Mary Ann who insisted on sitting down together for family dinner. And he will tell you that she became dubbed as "the great interrogator," requiring each child to share news of their day during their evening meal. Mary Ann was a great cook; in fact, she compiled a very thoughtful family cookbook.

Wynn, faithful steward, humble servant, serves as an 11:00 Usher and Greeter. He's active in the Adult Ministries Committee, the Brindisi Bible Study, the Men's Group, and the Membership Committee. Our Medical Advisory Group and the Safety Task Force also value his experience and expertise in these fields.

But, if you get a chance, take a peek inside that album. There are treasures to be found. A photo of Wynn, in checkered bell bottoms, bouncing a baby on his knee? Yup. It's there. Wynn, bashfully placing his arm on Mary Ann's shoulder during their first date? Absolutely. Yes, there's an abundance of wonderful curiosities in that album that make Wynn uniquely Wynn.

~ Written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Committee

Here are some photos you may find in Wynn's album!



This is a collage of drawings created by Wynn's Deputy Medical Center Commander which highlights portions of his military peacetime and wartime experience. He gave it to Wynn as a surprise gift from the medical staff. Wynn has no idea where he found those pictures including football action in college!

The Mabry family while Wynn was stationed in Bitburg, Germany, as a Hospital Commander.



Wynn & Mary Ann and family at Wynn's retirement ceremony in 2000 after 30 years of wonderful Air Force adventures. The rather ostentatious (Wynn's word!!) looking medal is the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal which is the highest noncombat award given. Wynn retired as a Major General.

Member Spotlight



Wynn Mabry!

Manning, Susan

August 2023 Member Spotlight – Susan Manning

If you have a question about the Presbyterian church, faith, or mission, you may want to speak with Susan Manning. Susan, a lifelong Presbyterian, was born in Presbyterian Hospital (now Novant) in Charlotte. Her father, Edgar Byers, was an ordained Presbyterian pastor. Susan has lived in Davidson and been a DCPC member since 1993 - 30 years!

An Ordained Elder in the PC(USA), Susan is currently serving her fourth term on our Session. She's served on the A&P Committee (Administration and Personnel) intermittently for 20 years. Susan has sung in the Chancel Choir for 30 years, and she faithfully acts as a co-leader of the Wednesday Morning Bible Study Class. The group, typically including 15-20 participants, has just completed studying the book *Looking at the Bible Through Jewish Eyes*, by Rabbi Evan Moffic, and will study the *Gospel of Matthew* this fall. She remains active on the Worship Committee, and assists, as needed, with coordinating weddings at the church.

Susan was married at DCPC in 2004 to Bob Manning (Dr. Robert John Manning), Professor Emeritus of Physics and Humanities at Davidson College. They shared 11 loving and joyful years together before Bob's passing in 2015. Susan is mother to three daughters, all living in our state, and three stepchildren. Altogether she has a dozen grandchildren – 6 girls and 6 boys. How fun!

Traveling is Susan's favorite interest, and she has enjoyed many trips to Europe, most recently France and England. She especially likes the more active walking or hiking tours she's taken. In the past she's traveled with Bob, her daughters, and other small groups. This coming fall, Susan will join other DCPC members on a special trip to Greece, titled "In the Footsteps of Paul," led by John Ryan. What an incredible way to learn about Paul's life and ministry.

Susan is an avid reader. History, biographies, and novels are her favorite genres. She loves visiting museums, both local and afar, and often brings home a newfound appreciation of the past. She plays card games, bridge, and enjoys challenging jigsaw puzzles, a favorite pastime she and Bob shared.

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry, a caring, confidential support group, has helped many individuals during personal difficult times. Susan was part of a small group that initiated this ministry in 2006, and she was one of the first three commissioned Stephen Leaders.

We are so very grateful for Susan's gifts of teaching, music, leadership, and caring. Next time you see her, be sure to share the love of Christ with a smile, a kind word, or even a gentle hug!

Written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Committee



Member Spotlight



Susan
Manning!

Mills, Elizabeth

Member Spotlight – Elizabeth Mills

Having grown up in Paris, TX, Elizabeth followed her husband's career path and moved to Davidson in 2001 with their two young children, Andrew and Julia. Elizabeth will tell you that it was her husband, Stephen, who discovered DCPC. She'll tell you that it was Stephen who found our church to be a kind, Christ-bearing, and welcoming place—a place where grace is abundant and burdens are shared, a place Elizabeth would eventually come to call her "village."

Elizabeth will tell you that music has always woven a beautiful thread through her life. For many years she directed the preschool and kindergarten choir, and she recalls their sweet voices at our congregation's "White Christmas" services. She'll tell you of the joy she experienced by singing in the Chancel choir and presently the Geneva and 9:45 Music Team choirs.

And she'll tell you of the wonder that fills her when she sings with Sunday Union, an awesome group of local musicians, mostly comprised of DCPC members and leaders. Sunday Union frequently performs a variety of music genres at Summit Coffee here in Davidson. With voices raised, guitars strumming, and drums beating under lights strung above, a special magic transforms an ordinary space behind Summit into a community of friendship and love. Elizabeth has been singing with Sunday Union for fifteen years.

If you come to a Sunday Union concert, typically the 2nd Friday of the month, you'll find a simple wooden stage. And if you look up, you'll see the signage "In Memory of Stephen Mills." Elizabeth lost her husband of twenty-seven years in 2013. It was an especially painful time for her, a time she recalls still, as more than 10 years have passed.

But Elizabeth will tell you of the love and support of her brothers and sisters in Christ that surrounded her. She'll speak of their unwavering guidance and walk with her throughout profound grief. She'll tell you they're her family. And it was through their love and generous financial support that the wooden stage bearing Stephen's name, stands.

Elizabeth is an Elder in the church. She's part of a song-writing group, and she currently teaches kindergarten and first grade children Bible stories during DCPC's Wednesday evening "Kids Club." With a recent move to Mooresville, and a full-time job at Fresh Market, her plate is indeed very full. But she has a story to tell, a story that glorifies our Lord and brings hope to all.

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

~Written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Ministry



Mitchell, Bev

Bev Mitchell Member Spotlight – January 2025

If you're looking for Bev, there's a good chance you'll find her at the HFFA, the Huntersville Family Fitness and Aquatic. It's where she's enjoyed exercising in the pool for over 18 years! The HFFA facility is family oriented and offers a gym and an 8-lane pool. Here, folks of all ages can participate in group exercise and aquatic classes. It's also where she's found a caring community and formed friendships spanning many years. Wonderful!

If you didn't find her there, Bev might be at home, immersed in a best seller like "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett or one of the Kristin Hannah novels. On the table beside her, there's likely a jigsaw puzzle or two. An avid puzzler, Bev finds this hobby both challenging and relaxing. And then there's the "One Day University," recently renamed "The Curiosity University," an online program featuring university professors from around the country. Bev finds the one-hour lectures (often focused on history, art or science), stimulating and fascinating.

But, if you still haven't found her, look right here in the church. She's likely attending worship or sharing conversation with one of her many friends. Having lived in Huntersville for 18 years, she knows many members of the congregation. Bev has served a term as a Deacon and as Chairperson for DCPC's SAGES group. She's a Greeter and part of a Women's Circle. She also continues her work registering donors for our blood drives.

2019 was a difficult year for Bev as she lost her dear husband, Lee. While grieving her profound loss, she learned of two other DCPC women who'd lost their own spouses that same year. Through their collective grief and faith, Bev, Beth Christenbury, and Marjorie Burris created DCPC's Healing and Support Group. This compassionate ministry extends an open invitation and caring support for anyone who has lost a loved one. The group has grown to include many members, and they meet monthly at a variety of local restaurants for lunch and conversation.

A look back at Bev's early life: She was born in Janesville, WI, and grew up in Cambria, a tiny Welsh community of 630! This lovely town was named for the Cambrian Hills in Wales. After high school, she attended Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. While Bev's husband Lee attended McCormick Seminary in Chicago, she taught elementary education and was subsequently employed by the Cook County Department of Public Welfare located in South Side Chicago. Bev could tell some harrowing tales of maintaining a caseload of clients and arranging home visits in a variety of difficult situations. Following the births of Lee and Bev's two children, Bev worked as the Director of Volunteers at Chandler Regional Hospital in Arizona. Bev and Lee lived in Tempe and Chandler for 30 years before moving to Huntersville. With her children now grown, she's blessed by 5 grandchildren. Son Kevin is a father of twins, and daughter Leanne, a mother of triplets!

Where might you find Bev? Well, almost anywhere! But when you do, you'll also find her ready smile and caring spirit. Thankful we are, to have her as a sister in Christ here in our midst!

Member Spotlight



Bev Mitchell!

Newbold, Mark and Judy

Mark and Judy Newbold October 2023 Member Spotlight

Do you know the Newbolds? You may have noticed Judy ushering at the early service or heard Mark playing his upright bass or bass guitar as part of the 9:45 music team. Their membership at DCPC has spanned 22 years. Judy has served as a Deacon (and as Secretary of the Diaconate), and Mark, an Elder, during the time of Lib McGregor Simmons' pastorate here.

Mark grew up in Utica, NY, although he's lived in numerous places including Tulsa, OK. Judy's growing years were in Lawton, OK. They met in Tucson, AZ. Davidson is their hometown now.

Mark's interest in music began in middle school and eventually led him to play in the church and with OTIS, a 3-piece band comprised of local musicians. They perform in the general Charlotte/Mecklenburg area, and frequently at The Crazy Pig right here in Davidson. Come check them out – and be sure to grab some BBQ and a libation or two! Mark shares both his vocal and instrumental gifts.

Judy enjoys reading, especially historical fiction. She's involved in a variety of book clubs. Both Judy and Mark are avid walkers and take advantage of both our beautiful greenway trails and suburban areas. Judy enjoys playing Nintendo and Mah Jongg.

Both Judy and Mark are retired attorneys. Judy worked for Legal Aid of Western Oklahoma, and more recently she was the Managing Attorney of the Concord office of Legal Aid of North Carolina. She completed her undergraduate work and her law degree at the University of Oklahoma. Mark was an undergraduate at Eisenhower College in central NY. He later was a police officer for the Tulsa Police Department where he earned his law degree from the University of Tulsa College of Law. Mark became General Counsel for the Tulsa Police Department and then became General Counsel for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department for 20 years.

Judy and Mark are proud parents of a son, Chris, who lives in Tacoma, WA. Chris works in a public school through a nonprofit organization and manages a program for at-risk students. Both Judy and Mark are very grateful that Jane Cain, DCPC Director of Music Emerita, had a major impact on their son during his growing years!

"So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."
Romans 12:5 (NIV)

~Written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Committee



O'Brien, Finn

Finn O'Brien - June 2024 Member Spotlight

Finn O'Brien. Curious. Kind. Compassionate. A rising junior at Cannon School in Concord. A student who loves History. A young man you can find on the soccer and lacrosse fields. And a person who's had more hands-on experience in caring for others than many his age.

In addition to his parents, the foundation of this caring is, in great part, his home congregation, Davidson College Presbyterian Church. It's a place, Finn says, where he's found unconditional love, welcome, and acceptance. DCPC is the place that's afforded him wonderful opportunities to grow in faith and build relationships through our youth programs and incredible mission trips. Finn's been involved in our youth group since the 6th grade. He is an Ordained Deacon and currently serves on the DCPC Fellowship Committee.

Finn's parents, Ian and Chase O'Brien, are Davidson College graduates and carry fond connections to the area. They moved their family, including their three sons (Findley, Walker, and Grayson), to Davidson six years ago after living in Maryland right outside the DC area. The whole family is actively engaged in the life of our congregation.

In 2022, Finn joined other DCPC youth on a mission trip to Puerto Rico through the nonprofit organization "Techos Pa Mi Gente" (Roofs For My People). This organization helps to provide home reconstruction and secure housing for homeowners with low incomes impacted by Hurricane Maria. During this week of service, Finn worked with natural disaster and hurricane relief. Participants worked on beautifying the main office and painting and tiling the kitchen.

In the summer of 2023, Finn, his mom, and other DCPC members flew to the region of Kilambe in Nicaragua. DCPC's partnership with Nicaragua began in 2005 through CEPAD, the Council of Protestant Churches. The focus of this trip supported the partnership through construction of a new preschool. Volunteers strengthened relationships with our brothers and sisters in this region through community engagement and by sharing special time with children, leading them in soccer, and playing other games.

Also in 2023, Finn joined five other DCPC young men on a mission trip to Memphis, TN. There, he worked with different organizations, including Meals-on-Wheels, and helping at a local food bank. The participants also assisted an elderly woman in moving to a new residence. This experience held special impact on Finn, knowing Memphis is close to home, where we might find others in similar situations in our own backyards.

Curious, kind, and compassionate – true marks of a conscientious young man who cares for humankind and doesn't hesitate to get involved. We're blessed and thankful for his outstanding service!

Finn's favorite Bible verse is The Widow's Offering (Mark 12:41-44).

~written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Committee



Finn and his mom, Chase.



Member Spotlight



Finn O'Brien!

Pegues, Austin

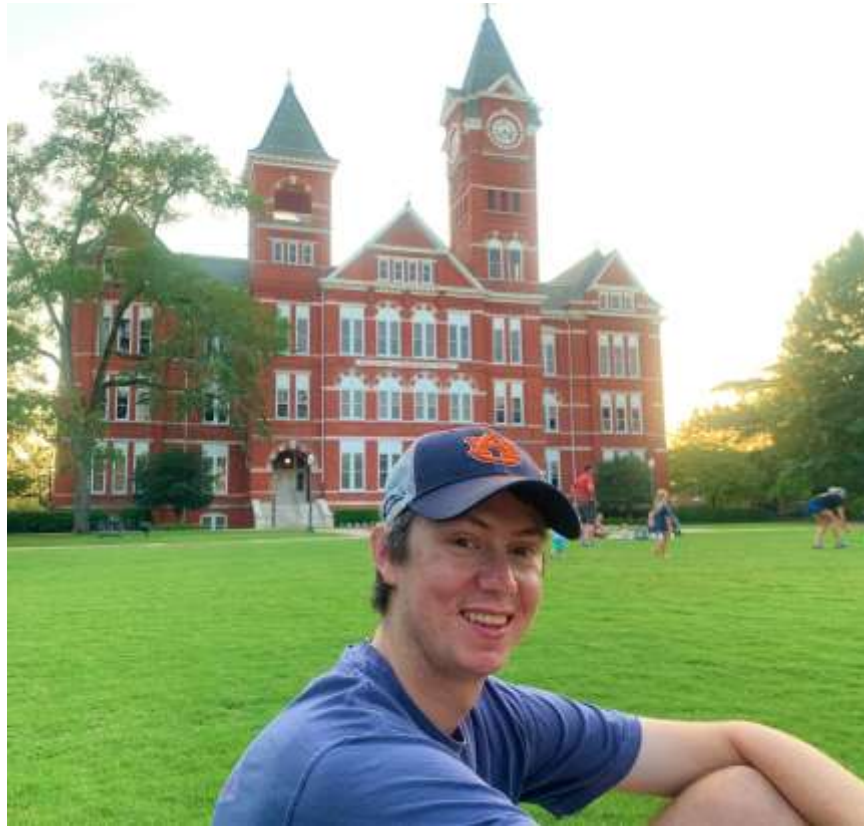
DCPC has long been known as a warm and invitational church. It was this sense of welcome that drew **Austin Pegues** into our congregation. Having graduated from college and acquiring a job within the area, he joined DCPC soon thereafter. He's been a DCPC member for about four years.

Austin grew up in Fairhope, Alabama, and graduated from Auburn University where he majored in Biosystems Engineering. He's employed as an engineer by the State of NC in their Division of Water Infrastructure. His work involves loans and grants for water and sewer projects.

The simple joy of experiencing nature and the great outdoors is one of Austin's favorite pastimes, and he enjoys a laid-back round of disc golf. He's a fan of all sports, especially when involving Auburn!

Austin is an Ordained Deacon in the PC(USA) and serves on our Fellowship Committee. He's also a Small Group Leader, supporting our 11th and 12th graders. Guiding our youth on their faith journeys is a way he feels he can give back, as he remembers those who supported him during his growing years. Austin also participates in DCPC's Young Adult Group. This group, typically meeting biweekly and providing a variety of social and learning activities, gives him a genuine sense of belonging.

Austin has a sister and brother-in-law who live in South Georgia. They recently became first time parents to a baby boy. That makes Austin a brand-new uncle! Of the many lives he touches, and through his faithful serving, being a loving uncle will surely suit him well!



Pharr, AK

September Member Spotlight – Sarah Busse & AK Pharr

Sarah Busse and AK (Anna Katherine) Pharr have shared a whole lot of life together! Although they're quite young, these recent Confirmands will tell you that they were both born in the same hospital, in the same year, in the same month, only three days apart! Their births were just the beginning of a growing friendship that has spanned their entire lives. Where do they both live? Here in Davidson. Which neighborhood? The same one. And their faith community? DCPC! Interestingly, with their strong ties to the area, AK's dad and Sarah's mom attended the same high school. So many wonderful commonalities and connections!

Sarah and AK fondly recall their earliest years as students attending DCPC's wonderful preschool program. And they still remember their teachers, Miss Laura and Miss Nancy. What a strong and loving impact these faithful teachers made on Sarah and AK's formative years! Those years were filled with creative learning experiences including the wonder and magic of releasing butterflies and exciting Easter egg hunts in the spring. AK's mom, Summer Pharr, worked as a teacher in DCPC's preschool program, introducing the Enrichment Program. Sarah's mom, Hunter Busse, was the preschool's Assistant Director for 6 years.

Both AK and Sarah sang in the choir under the faithful leadership of Elizabeth Mills, Stephanie Malushizky, Monica Galloway, Jane Cain, DCPC's Director of Music Emerita, and more recently, David Brinson, our Director of Music. AK played the handbells for a brief period. Presently both AK and Sarah are involved with our Sunday evening youth group. They enjoy the meals and games shared with others, and the learning activities associated with our faith. Both Sarah and AK are thankful for the awesome leadership of their youth advisor, Catherine Bragg, and DCPC's Staff Associate for Youth Ministry, Matt Wiggins.

This year AK will begin 9th grade at the Community School of Davidson. Her favorite subjects in the past have been Science (specifically Chemistry) and both contemporary dance and ballet. She's been on the swim team and is planning to begin Lacrosse in the spring.

Sarah, also beginning 9th grade, will attend Lake Norman Charter School. She has enjoyed the creative aspects of art in the past, but also gravitates to the challenges of Math. Sarah's favorite sports are tennis and volleyball.

When Sarah and AK were recently confirmed, they entered into full confession and affirmation of faith. What a joyful time for our congregation! During this Confirmation, process our church family pledged to pray for and support them, and all our Confirmands, on their faith journeys. We continue to encourage and pray for Sarah, AK, and all of our DCPC Confirmands!

Written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of DCPC's Membership Ministry





Member Spotlight



Sarah Busse & AK Pharr!

Ross Family

Member Spotlight – Tyler and Kimberly Ross

Do you know the Tyler and Kimberly Ross family? Take this family friendly spotlight quiz!

1: They joined DCPC in:

A) 2015 B) 2023 C) 2017

2: Their family pets:

A) No pets B) a cat and a dog C) a turtle and five goldfish

3: Their favorite family activity:

A) Playing board games B) traveling throughout the state C) trying new recipes

Answers: 1:C 2:A 3:B

Kimberly and Tyler Ross met in 2006 when they attended “sister” high schools in the Washington, DC area. Their years together grew from friendship, to dating, to marriage, to starting a family, always with a common interest in living an abundant life in faith. They were married in 2012.

Kimberly calls Annapolis, MD, her hometown, while Tyler was a part of a military family and moved often during his formative years. However, Tyler attended high school in the DC area, and thus claims Washington as his de facto hometown.

At the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Tyler was a History major, graduated in 2011, and served five years as an officer in the Marine Corps, including a combat deployment to Afghanistan. Kimberly received her degree in Chemical Engineering from NC State University in Raleigh, graduating in 2012. They have three young children: Charlotte (9), Annaleigh (7) and Jackson (4). The Ross family loves to travel, and you can find them exploring many parts of our state. Family favorites include Wilmington, Topsail Beach, and Blowing Rock.

Tyler and Kimberly are actively involved in the life of our congregation, and they are passionate about DCPC’s mission and commitment to be *a welcoming, affirming, and inclusive faith community – where all are one in Christ*. They describe DCPC as “home,” and as “a source of strength,” where they’ve made many dear friends. Tyler has been a Youth Group leader since 2018, having followed the High School Class of 2025 from 6th grade to 11th grade, where they are currently. He will continue working with them until their graduation next year. He will soon become a DCPC Preschool Board Member and was just Ordained and Installed as an Elder!

In 2023, Kimberly became the Chair of the Children's Ministry Committee, on which she has served for the past three years. She also served on the Preschool Board and is currently a preschool teacher. She has been a part of a collaborative effort regarding the allocation of DCPC's space both pre-and-post construction.

With three young children, Tyler and Kimberly are thankful for the many learning and service opportunities DCPC offers our youth. Charlotte, Annaleigh, and Jackson continue to be involved with Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Kids Club, Room in the Inn, and choir, among many others. Tyler and Kimberly are especially grateful for the gifts and passion all of our pastors and staff associates bring to their respective areas of ministry, and they're thankful for the growing friendships and loving relationships they and their children have experienced.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14 NRSV

~written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Committee



Member Spotlight



The Ross Family!

Stevenson, Elyse and Josh

Elyse and Josh Stevenson - Member Spotlight March 2025

Meet the Stevensons! Their story of discovering and joining our church family right here at DCPC is a familiar one. Like many, when they first stepped foot into the church, they were warmly welcomed and invited to make themselves comfortable and at home. They were shown where they could sit and, if needed, where they could find safe and caring childcare. The time was 2017 when they had recently moved to Mooresville from Charlotte.

Fast forward to 2025. You'll find Josh and Elyse worshipping regularly at our 9:45 service, as their children Sawyer (9), Noah (6), and Brynley (4) engage in wonderful faith formation experiences through our Sunday School classes. Their children also enjoy our annual Vacation Bible School programs; the Stevensons have certainly become an active and integral part of our faith community. How wonderful!



Busy mom Elyse jokingly describes herself and son Sawyer, as "structured, schedule keepers, and rule followers," while son Noah, daughter Brynley, and husband Josh are more laid back and go with the flow. But despite subtle differences in personalities, they all come together and delight in occasional "Taco Tuesdays" and pizza on Fridays. Two dear felines, Pickles (17) and Luna (12), round out the family.



The Stevenson's lives are full. School and work schedules, appointments, trips to the park, children's activities, and baseball and tee ball practices fill their days. Josh is the highly gifted Director of Bands at Mooresville High School. He has an extensive background in teaching and conducting,



including his service as an adjunct faculty member at Mitchell Community College, where he conducts the band.

Elyse is a talented graphic designer for Food Lion in their marketing department. Beyond all this, Elyse serves on the DCPC Communications Committee and as a Small Group Leader with our high school youth. She is a newly elected church Elder. Josh shares his passion for music by playing his trombone during special worship services. Together they've hosted two families as part of our New Member ministry.



The Stevensons stay connected and close-knit with extended family. In fact, every year they plan two special summer vacations with their children's grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. They escape to Sunset Beach, NC, with Josh's parents, and to Fripp Island, SC, with Elyse's mom. How lovely that they can experience all the wonder of beach life every year!

It's a familiar story. A young family joins our church. But before the joining was the welcoming. The welcoming spirit that embraced them. And that spirit of welcome is what the Stevensons now extend to all who step through our doors. Thanks be to God!



~written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of our Membership Ministry

Member Spotlight



Josh & Elyse Stevenson!

Sudduth, Al and Alice

A is for Adam. A is for Abraham. A is for Alice and Al! **Meet Al and Alice Sudduth**, members of DCPC for almost 48 years! These loving, active seniors continue to faithfully bring a wonderful energy to the life of our congregation.

Alice hails from Monticello, GA, and Al from Gastonia, but they met in 1966 at a music conference in Montreat, NC! Their mutual love of music has traveled with them their entire lives. Al attended Georgia Tech and received a degree in electrical engineering. He served four and a half years in the navy as part of the engineering staff, working with the nuclear power agency. At Georgia State, Alice received her undergraduate degree in psychology and her master's degree in clinical psychology. They are parents of a son in Pittsboro, NC, and a daughter in Stone Mountain, GA.

Alice's gifts of service are widespread. She shares her love of music by singing in our Chancel Choir. She also serves as a host for families at memorial services and assists once a month at The Pines chapel services in the Health Care area. As part of the Intercessory Prayer Group, she meets weekly with others to lift up the burdens, challenges, and joys of DCPC members, friends, and families. She's been a part of the refugee resettlement of the Murad family, offering welcome, support, and tutoring services to Mustafa, the Murad's young son. Alice plays the guitar and revels in the beauty of nature.

Al also sings in the Chancel Choir. He offers technical support for DCPC's computer systems and network and works with our staff on cyber security. Al continues to be a vibrant leader of our Global Missions ministry and serves as the point person for DCPC's Kenya Partnership. Al has traveled to Kenya six times (and he is there right now on his seventh trip!), sharing the love of Jesus with our brothers and sisters in Christ in this beautiful country. He has shared these profound experiences (and incredible photographs) at a variety of DCPC gatherings in the past, and he'd be delighted to speak with anyone considering involvement in Global Missions!

Both Alice and Al have volunteered through the Habitat for Humanity organization. Alice was a key leader in founding the Stephen Ministry program at DCPC, a caring group offering confidential support to those experiencing difficult times. Al sings with the Davidson College Choral Arts Society and plays the tuba in the Lake Norman Philharmonic Community Orchestra. Our two and three-year-old children at DCPC enjoy Al's guitar strumming every other week in their Sunday School classes. What a treasure! Al was the original chief tech volunteer with E2D, an organization that refurbishes and distributes donated computers to lower income folks. Most of these have been distributed through the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System. To date, more than 35,000 computers have been distributed. E2D is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

A is for Alice. A is for Al. And A is for appreciation, admiration, and affirmation for all the Sudduths do in Christ's name.

Article by Lynn Cushing and the Membership Committee



Summerville, Lovenia

Lovenia Summerville – February 2024

When someone asks Lovenia how to spell her name, she responds, “Just write the word **love** followed by the letters n, i, and a. **Lovenia** – how simple and sweet. Lovenia (pronounced Lov-en-ia) is Teutonic derived from the German language. It is also her aunt’s middle name, and the name of a friend of her Grandmother Goodrum.

Perhaps you already know Lovenia as an 11:00 a.m. worship service Greeter, or as a former Moderator of Presbyterian Women, or Elder, or member of the Membership Committee or Circle 3. But in this month of love (think Valentines), we celebrate the love that Lovenia brings to her church, community, and family.

Lovenia loves reading. Having earned a BA in Bible and Christian Education at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, NC, and a MLS in Library Science at Peabody College in Nashville, TN, she worked as a librarian at Georgia Southwestern College in Americus, GA, and for 33 years as a catalog librarian at UNC-Charlotte. Imagine the thousands of books her hands have touched over so many decades! She is currently involved in two book clubs (one at DCPC), and she enjoys reading history and fiction in addition to many other genres. She is currently chairperson of DCPC’s wonderful Library Committee. We are thankful for her catalog experience and her work with the new automation of our library system.

Lovenia loves walking. Walking has been a big part of her life, beginning in her growing years in Charlotte and carrying her through many decades. Presently, she is part of a walking group in her lovely St. Albans neighborhood, but she’ll tell you of her memories of hiking through our beautiful greenways, and into the town of Davidson.

Lovenia loves genealogy. When she moved to Davidson with her mother in 2001, they combine their common interest in family records, and Lovenia continues her work on getting family resources organized and in print. Lovenia’s brothers, Kenneth, living in Garner, NC, (whose family lives in that area), and Kelly, now deceased, (whose family lives in the Matthews area) all contribute to this family project.

When asked what her favorite Bible verse is, Lovenia is quick to respond from childhood memories:

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32 KJV. Another favorite from later in life is “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8 NRSV.

~written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Committee



Member Spotlight



Lovenia Summerville!

Wilkes, Tim and Debbi

March 2024 Member Spotlight Debbi and Tim Wilkes

Ready? Set? Jump! When Debbi and Tim Wilkes joined DCPC in 2021, these active seniors jumped right into the life of our congregation! Perhaps it's because they carried memories of growing up together in the same Detroit area church and had experienced the joy of being a part of a loving, active faith community.

Both Debbi and Tim are friendly Greeters and Ushers at the 9:45 service. They enjoy our weekly Wednesday Night Dinners and have volunteered in our annual RITI (Room in the Inn) program. Debbi is a member of the Membership Committee, Adult Ministry Committee, and Circle #7. Tim has volunteered with DCPC related Habitat for Humanity projects.

Tim and Debbi are presently sponsoring an international student from Greece through Davidson College. How wonderful! They enjoy singing with the Community Singers of Lake Norman and volunteer at the Cain Center for the Arts. In their Bailey's Glen community, Tim plays ping pong and pickle ball, while Debbi enjoys bocce and creating pottery in the mudslingers group. Tim also volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity Restore.

Debbi earned a degree in nursing at Northern Michigan University. Tim's major at Eastern Michigan University was special education, and he attained his master's degree in social work at the University of Michigan. It's no wonder their collective educations led them to careers in caring for others. Debbi worked as a nurse for primary care doctors for 30 years. Tim's work in special education with emotionally impaired children and those with learning disabilities spanned 25 years. Their careers were deeply fulfilling, and they loved all the people in their care.

Their daughter Bethany and her husband Tory live locally and are parents of Caledon, a precious little boy. You might see Debbi and Tim doting over him in church! Bethany and Tory are also expecting a baby girl in June! Their son Zachary and his wife Jenny live in Michigan. Debbi and Tim are also parents of a daughter, Emily, who sadly passed in 2010. This was an especially difficult time in their lives, and a heartache they continue to carry. As Debbi said, "Our children bring our greatest joys and deepest sorrows."

Debbi and Tim are dear friends of Deb Todd, fellow DCPC member and next-door neighbor. In fact, Deb is considered a part of the family. Violet, the family cat, is a beloved neighborhood feline friend.

Ready? Set? Jump! Jump into caring for others! Jump into singing! Jump into praising! And into learning and growing and serving! **Go ahead....Jump!**

"We know that in all things, God works for the good for those who love Him and are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

~written by Lynn Cushing on behalf of the Membership Ministry



Member Spotlight



Tim & Debbi Wilkes!