

LISTENING TO THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD – FROM PASTOR LAWRENCE

Shortly after the consecration of the Memorial Church as a center for transformative worship, learning and mission, the congregation gathered for a baptism. In the covenantal waters of baptism, this congregation promised to nurture and pray for, love and activate the gifts of a baby girl.

Growing in wisdom, faith, hope and love, she worshipped God in this sanctuary, she learned about the life giving and saving message of Jesus in our Sunday School rooms. She went out into the community to serve others as she crossed the threshold of the sanctuary and descended the steps to Church St.

As an eighteen year old student at Miami in 1947, she then wrote these words in her journal. *The most important thing is religion. Not just doctrines, but the feeling that there is worth, purpose, and meaning in life: that God is very real. We must always live at our best. Faith is the essence of our everyday lives, the standard by which we live.*

This young woman was Joan McNelly and she had just met Charles Teckman. Gifted and wise, Joan excelled in her studies at Miami graduating in three years. Joan began her life-long vocation with a Master of Nursing degree from Case-Western Reserve University and earned her Registered Nurse license in 1953. She was one of the earliest nurses to complete the Specialist Degree, Family Nurse Practitioner at Indiana University in 1978. Joan was employed over her lifetime as a professor of nursing at Miami University (1969-80), Indiana University (1979-81), and the University of Cincinnati (1982-90). Each university welcomed her expanded level of professional nursing education and nursing experience.

Joan Teckman was a beloved member of the Oxford Presbyterian Church for many, many years. She and Charles were committed to our congregational ministry and mission in a multitude of ways - some visible, with many more behind the scenes. On Saturday, Joan might be found preparing for the annual bazaar, and then on Sunday, taking blood pressure tests and temperature checks after worship. Following retirement, she thrived as our Volunteer Parish Nurse. In this role she also made wellness visits to church members with as much care and attention as a doctor's house call from yesteryear.

Inspired by Joan's legacy, Randy and Layne Listerman have donated primary funding for the creation of the Joan M. Teckman / Oxford Presbyterian Healthcare Award in memory of Joan and to support continuation of her work in healing services. The award will be given from Oxford Presbyterian Church to a

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deserving Talawanda senior seeking to enter studies for employment in a healthcare-related position.

The award fund includes the Listerman gift, and with supplements of additional gifts in Joan's memory, now stands at \$12,000 and will hopefully increase as additional donations are extended.

Thanks to Randy and Layne and to all who have donated to this investment in the youth of our community and to this appropriate remembrance of Joan Teckman.

Those who would like to contribute to this effort and extend the award program may send a check to the church office or contact Bill King at kingwl@miamioh.edu (513) 523-2546.

If you know of a Talawanda senior seeking to enter studies for employment in a healthcare related position, please encourage them to apply for this generous award through the Guidance Department at the high school.

Let us give thanks and glory to God for the children, youth and students nurtured in this ministry throughout the years - and TODAY –

*who heal in medical offices and hospitals,
who till the land and teach in classrooms,
who thrive in businesses and nonprofits,
who serve the common good in government and military,
who cook in kitchens and preach the gospel,
who create beautiful art and engineer solutions to our most challenging problems,
and who offer SO MUCH MORE!*

With our commitment to transformative worship, learning and mission - this is the legacy and future of ministry at Oxford Presbyterian Church!