



Ensuring the Future of Saturday Tutoring as Faithful Leader Linda Wilson Prepares for Retirement

The Saturday Tutoring Program has developed and is sustained under the loving and dedicated management of Linda Wilson. During her 27th year Linda has advised us that she will be retiring from her position after the spring semester of 2018. We are very thankful to be receiving this news with enough time to plan for a transition of leadership for the Saturday Tutoring Program. The Saturday Tutoring Program is an important way the Covenant reaches out and ministers to its surrounding community. Does the mission of the Saturday Tutoring Program compel you? The Saturday Tutoring Program Steering Committee is seeking participants who feel called to help plan to sustain this vital ministry. Please contact John Marsh for more information.

It's hard to believe that the Tutoring Program at our church has just entered the second semester of its 27th year. From its humble beginnings, when a handful of students from John Hay High School got help with their homework from 3 or 4 volunteers in the school library, the list of students signed up for tutoring has grown to 250! The constant, steadfast and enthusiastic leader of the Saturday Tutoring Program is Linda Wilson. In 1990, Linda was an English teacher at John Hay High School. She and her colleague Paul Dirksen, a member of the Church of the Covenant, observed that struggling students appreciated extra help with their schoolwork. So they began tutoring some of them after school along with Betty Dowd and other Covenant members in the school library. When the program quickly outgrew the confines of that space, Covenant leaders then offered to host the tutoring program here in our building.

Over the years the group expanded to include elementary, and middle school students and those just beyond high school age seeking to pass the Ohio Graduation Test. The volunteer tutor group has expanded greatly and now includes many undergraduate and graduate college students from Case, CIM, CIA, CSU and JCU as well as volunteers from business community outreach programs.

The challenge of pairing the particular talents of tutors to the specific needs of students on a Saturday morning runs smoothly under Linda's leadership. Linda recruits more experienced tutors to greet and match tutors with students. The first hour of the two hour session is devoted to the subject students need help with. The second hour focuses on developing better writing. A topic is sent out on Thursday for all students to explore as they develop their writing skills. Some students have attended consistently from early elementary school all the way through high school! As you can imagine there have been many success stories. Of course tutors experience self-discovery and personal growth too! There is an orientation session given the week before each semester so that new tutors can learn the process of the program and how to foster effective tutor student rapport. There is also a shorter orientation available before each Saturday session. Contact John Marsh to learn more, or better yet, come and volunteer on a Saturday!