

Let us introduce you to Linda Herring.

Linda, a retired medical social worker, is a native of Charlotte. She attended Gardner-Webb Jr. College (now University) then transferred to UNC – Chapel Hill where she earned her degree in sociology. Her career in medical social work started with a position at Mercy Hospital (Charlotte) back in the day when the Sisters of Mercy operated the hospital. Although she has worked in other medical settings after her time at Mercy, the “best job of her life” from which she retired was with LifeShare of the Carolinas at CMC Main (Atrium), which serves to link potential organ donors with those waiting for lifesaving organ, eye, and tissue transplants. As a MSW, Linda’s role was to support families who had a loved one who was believed to be an “imminent death” and to discuss the opportunity for their loved one to be an organ donor and help save another life. She enjoyed this position and found her work to be quite meaningful.



While at Mercy Hospital, she met her husband, Buddy, as the result of Buddy asking another co-worker if Linda was single because he didn’t see a ring on her finger. (Buddy and Linda were both divorced at the time). Their co-workers decided that Buddy and Linda needed to meet and took quite a few steps to make that happen! Buddy’s simple question ultimately led to their marriage a year later. In 2007, they moved from Charlotte to Lake Wylie to build their dream home, where they still reside today with their 2 spoiled cats. Both Buddy and Linda are retired and will soon celebrate their 36<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Linda describes herself as an “oops baby” because her two sisters were 10 and 12 when she arrived on the scene! She and her sisters were raised by strict but incredibly loving parents and attended First Baptist Church in Charlotte. Linda describes herself as very shy until she went to college where she blossomed, becoming an officer in several different student organizations. As you get to know our “new member” Linda you will find she is not at all shy!

Buddy and Linda share a blended family of three children. Linda has two children from her previous marriage, Paige, who is part owner of 4 restaurants in the Asheville area, and Matthew, a Mental Health Therapist. Both families live in Asheville, as well as two grandsons (ages 13 and 17). Buddy’s son, Duncan, who owns a machine shop, lives in Rock Hill.

In her free time, Linda enjoys sewing and gardening and crafting. Currently she enjoys making wreaths from mesh which she uses to decorate the door of her middle sister’s assisted living room. Her gardening was put on hold this past year due to her knee replacement surgery, but she looks forward to getting back in the gardens.

As a member of St. John’s Methodist church (Rock Hill) where she attended prior to joining Grace, she was involved in many different activities. Some of her favorites include being a member of the choir and a member of a Women’s Circle that supported the church yard sale, fall festival, and served meals at the Bethel Men’s Shelter. She was also in charge of the costumes, used for Journey to Bethlehem. Linda assisted the church in its bereavement ministry. As a member of Grace, Linda looks forward to meeting people and getting involved in the church life at Grace. She is already enjoying the Seniors group, and says she loves the formality of the 11:00 am service and is in absolute awe of the Parish choir. Grace is everything she was looking for in a new church. Linda is already signed up to help with hospitality on Sunday mornings and is learning more about the Health and Wellness committee and the Bereavement committee.

Join us in welcoming Linda to Grace!