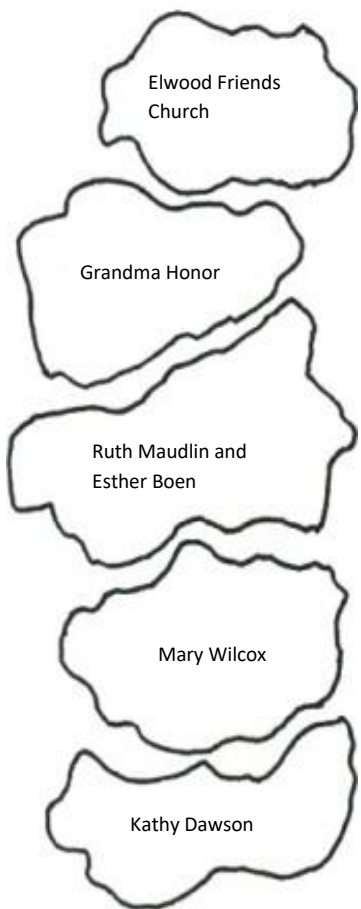


STEPPING STONES OF FAITH - Rev. Dr. Holly J. Dillon

My faith journey can be seen as a series of stepping stones which represent relationships that have shaped and formed my faith, my values, and my ministry.



Elwood Friends Church

Grandma Honor

Ruth Maudlin and
Esther Boen

Mary Wilcox

Kathy Dawson

When I was a child, my family began attending a small Quaker church. This was the community in which my faith was formed and from which I drew the values of honesty, integrity, curiosity, mutual respect, and concern for justice. It was here I made my public profession of faith at age 14. The people of **Elwood Friends Church** affirmed my gifts, nurtured my faith, and encouraged me to follow God's call.

My grandmother, **Honor Ramey**, was also formative influence on my life of faith. She taught and encouraged me to play the old hymns of the faith and we would sing them together. She was an example of faithfulness, prayer, devotion, and love that permeates how I approach life and my ministry.

Ruth Maudlin and Esther Boen were Sunday School teachers who made a lasting impact on my faith. Because of Ruth's instruction, I memorized the books of the Bible, the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer and other passages of scripture that are important to me. Ruth's genuine faith and love of the Bible was a great inspiration for me to continue to study scripture. Esther acknowledged my curiosity, honoring my questions and doubts. She demonstrated how to live a life attentive to God's still, small Voice and encouraged me to listen and follow.

Mary Wilcox was a retired professor of Christian education, who became an important mentor to me as I served in educational ministry. Mary challenged me to think deeply about scripture and taught me a method of biblical interpretation that continues to form and inform my faith.

I first met **Kathy Dawson**, professor of Christian education, when I entered the D. Ed. Min. program at Columbia Theological Seminary in 2008. Kathy had a tremendous impact on my professional life and on my faith. Kathy demonstrates a spirit of gentleness and humility in her teaching and in her interactions with students, which arises out of a deep and sincere faith and trust in God – qualities I seek to emulate in my own life.

My journey of faith continues. There are new relationships to be built, new stepping stones to be added. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, I continue to seek God's guidance, to learn, to question, to study, to love, to grow and to serve God and God's people.