

Member Profile Story

This week's feature: Dave and Carol Novotny



Dave and Carol were both born in Cleveland, Ohio. Dave grew up in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood; Carol grew up in the Westpark area. Dave went to James Ford Rhode High School; Carol went to John Marshall School. Dave was a Business Major; Carol started with College Prep but switched to Business in her Senior year.

Dave has one younger brother, Craig who lives in Lakewood, Ohio. Carol was the third of four children, with an older brother Don, an older sister Dona, and a younger brother Dennis. Both Don and Donna passed away in the last few years. Dennis and his wife live in Parma, Ohio.

Dave and Carol met in the same department at the Illuminating Company. Dave had a part-time job at the Cleveland Library as a teenager, but both were hired at The Illuminating Company right after graduating from high

school. Both were also fortunate to work under the supervision of wonderful mentors who recognized their work ethic and abilities, and eventually rose to supervisory positions themselves. Sadly, Dave lost his job when The Illuminating Company merged with Ohio Edison and became First Energy, so for the remaining 14 years before his retirement worked as a part time Manager and courier for an airport delivery company and later as a Quality Control Manager for a mailing house. Carol was fortunate to maintain a position with First Energy, retiring after 43 years with The Illuminating Company/First Energy (the only job she ever had!)

Carol and Dave have a blended family of five children - Brian, 53, is a Captain with the Streetsboro Fire Department; Shelly, 51, is a Social Worker with The Ohio State Prison System. Kim, 51, is a Teaching Assistant with The Westlake School System; Brad, 49, works in Quality Control at Charter Steel ; and Lisa, 49, works as an Accountant for a Law firm in Toledo, Ohio. All five children have given them a total of 12 grandchildren ranging in age from 11 to 33, only three of which are still in middle or high school and two of which have given them 2 great-grandchildren aged 1 and 4!

After living in the Akron/Canton area for 11 years due to Carol's position with First Energy, they chose to move back north to the Cleveland area when Carol retired to be closer to most of their kids and grandkids. So in 2011 they moved to Elyria and visited every Lutheran Church - both ELCA and Missouri Synod - within a 5 mile radius of their new home. They were simply looking for a Church with an instructive and enlightening Pastor , a welcoming congregation, and an Adult Choir, but no Church seemed to be calling to them. Their daughter Shelly was a member of PoP and asked them if they would take her son to VBS that first summer they lived in Elyria, so Carol did. She offered to help out, met Deaconess Jeannette who put her to work, and became friendly with Lorraine Lutton during that week. Lorraine encouraged her to attend a Sunday worship service. They liked Pastor Bishop's preaching and the friendly atmosphere of PoP and started attending regularly . In the fall, Lorraine invited them to join the Choir, which

they did; and by December, they had attended a New Member class and officially joined!

Carol and Dave continue to sing in the Choir. They are also part of the group that chooses hymns for the traditional service, attend the Wednesday Adult Bible Study and the monthly Young at Heart lunches, serve as Ushers during the Choirs summer break, and sometimes help at the Second Harvest Food Bank. Carol also serves as an Assistant Minister, Reader and Communion Assistant; and was always thrilled when Pastor Charlie offered her a reading part in one of his skits!

Dave and Carol have owned sailboats and motorcycles over the years and enjoyed them tremendously, but gave them up as they reached their 70's. They did some traveling but especially cherish their 3-week road trip out West in 2012 and a 2-week trip to Israel in 2016. When the grandchildren were growing up, they were in the stands for endless football, baseball, basketball, soccer and volleyball games, not to mention track & field and cross-country events; plus choir concerts, band concerts and drama presentations. They pretty much now consider themselves "homebodies" but still try to attend most of the three younger grandchildren's school games and events as well as eating out with friends and relatives, including those grown-up grandkids just to keep in touch with them.

Some other things that people may not know is that Carol has been collecting Barbie dolls as an adult and has over 200 of them including her original Barbie received for Christmas in 1961 and every Holiday Barbie since 1988. Dave has an Amateur Radio License and nearly 200 handheld and console radios that he's collected over the years. They look forward to sticking around long enough to see the remaining grandchildren's weddings!

Dave and Carol are living a life filled with purpose. As dedicated Christians, they share God's Love and always spread the Good News of Jesus !

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter

