

“Profile Story”

This week’s feature : Ruth Williams



Ruth’s parents met in the Navy and married once the war was over. They returned to Dad’s family farm near Lincoln , Nebraska where she was born. Her father got a job as a pilot for United Airlines, and they lived in Cheyenne, Wyoming, then San Carlos, California, and finally the suburbs of Chicago at the age of 4 where Ruth grew up and the family never moved around after that. She has one younger brother, who now has 9 grandchildren.

The church has been a second home since her earliest childhood. They lived in a community that had been built for returning GIs. The first churches in town were United Protestant, not waiting for enough of each denomination to build their own church.

In eighth grade, Ruth was the accompanist for the school choir, and a choir member named Joy Williams became her best friend. During high school, Ruth spent a couple summers at Interlochen National Music Camp in Michigan. It was a great experience once

she got over the initial homesickness. As the years passed, Joy decided Ruth should meet her older brother Glenn... and the rest is history! Having been raised in the United Protestant Church, they were both comfortable in different denominations.

Ruth came to Ohio to get her bachelor's at Oberlin Conservatory. Meanwhile, Glenn had gotten a job in Cleveland. They were married right after she graduated, but the draft was still on , so 6 weeks later he was off to the Army. They were stationed in New Jersey, Biloxi, Mississippi, and Ethiopia! That adventure could fill a book! The US had a radio base there since the high altitude made it a prime location, and Glenn was a radio technician. They returned to Cleveland to resume his employment as an electronics engineer, and have lived here ever since. Eventually, after a layoff, he became employed at NASA Glenn.

Ruth was fortunate to be accepted into the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, and sing with them for 15 years. She experienced the thrill to be onstage with the best orchestra in the world! At this time their two daughters were in middle school and Ruth resigned to get a paying job. She served as a Learning Disabilities tutor for 21 years. She was very gratified to help struggling learners, then retired in 2009 after the paperwork got to be too much.

Ruth had been accompanying voice lessons for some years, and she never thought she wanted to play the organ, but her church organist suggested she give it a try. That's when she was hooked! She subbed for about 10 years and then got her first regular Sunday job in Avon Lake. Several years into COVID, the leadership had decided to reduce the music staff and three were

cut loose. As everyone at POP was missing Don Jackson after his retirement, it provided a lucky opportunity for Ruth. Her appreciation overflows to be part of the warm and welcoming atmosphere here at Prince of Peace!

Quilting is tops on Ruth's hobby list, so she was delighted to join the Comfort Quilters at PoP. She also loves reading, gardening and crossword puzzles. The Young at Heart lunch group is another way to celebrate our community. You are not seeing much of Glenn as he has joined the Avon United Methodist Church.

Glenn and Ruth are enjoying retirement and the grandparents phase of life. They have a grandson in Tallmadge, and two granddaughters in Wheaton, Illinois. Their grandson is very artistic, and the girls got the music genes. Their mom is a viola teacher. Ruth is looking forward to the Holy Land Trip with Pastor Charlie in the fall.

The gifts that God has given Ruth have been used wisely. She has discerned a path our Lord has given her to follow, what a meaningful life she is living !

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter