

“Member Profile”

This week’s feature : Robert and Della Thompson



Bob was born in Ashland, Ohio and had two siblings Myra, who passed away in 2017, and Doug who lives in New Smyrna Beach in Florida. He attended Ashland High School. He graduated from Ashland College with a major in Business Management. Della was born in Galion, Ohio and attended Ibero High School. She received her three year nursing certificates from Mansfield General Hospital School of Nursing. She had three siblings Phylis, who passed away in 2010, Flora who passed in 2014 and Doris who lives in Galion, Ohio

Today’s story is about a loving couple that met at a dance sponsored by the Mansfield Ohio School of Nursing. Della was training to be a nurse at the time. Bob and Della got married after Bob graduated from Ashland College in 1963. Bob turned out to be a job hopper. His first job was as a Production Planner at Westinghouse in Mansfield where their son Steve was born. They moved to Canton where Bob worked at Diebolt. Their son David was born in Canton. The next move was back to Mansfield Ohio, then to Danville, IL to work as a Materials Manager at Bohn Heat Transfer. He finally ended up in Cincinnati,

Ohio as a Materials Manager for Keichler Mfg. During these moves Della worked at various hospitals in town and on her undergraduate degree in Nursing , and in 1996 she graduated from the University of Cincinnati.

They were married in the Lutheran church in Galion, Ohio and have raised two sons, Steve age 60 and David age 59. Steve just retired as the Executive Director for the National Center for Appropriate Technology in Butte, Mt. Dave is an Electrical Engineer for Goodyear in Akron. They had two grandchildren, Sam and Oliver. Sam died in August 2023. She was twenty nine years old. Oliver is nineteen years old and is enrolled in Akron University. Della died on June 28, 2023 at Ames Family Hospice House in Westlake. She had battled with Alzheimer's Disease for several years but the disease finally won. Bob knows she is in a much better place.

Della and Bob joined POP in 2001 . They had moved to Westlake from Cincinnati and were looking for a home church. Della was a Lutheran from birth and converted Bob. They checked out several Lutheran Churches in the area but chose POP because of Pastor Bishop and his sermons.

Bob has been involved with many groups at POP. His activities include Habitat for Humanity, Church Council, preparing meals at 2100 Lakeside as part of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries Men's Shelter. Travel Quest and Young at Heart also provide a great connection. His hobbies include growing plants from seeds in his second bedroom, line dancing, square dancing, volunteering as a Red Coat at Playhouse Square and joining hikes with the Cleveland Hiking Club.

Something that people may not know is in 1987 thru 1989 Della and Bob were in the Peace Corps in St. Lucia. Bob was facing a midlife crisis at 48 years old and needed a change. Steve was working out west and David was in the Navy. Their dog of 11 years had passed

away and Bob was very dissatisfied with the company he worked at. Bob said it was a great experience. Living two years in a different culture gave him and Della an understanding that even if the culture is different America isn't the only country with nice people.

I enjoy any time I meet Bob, he has a contagious enthusiasm and is always in a positive frame of mind. He is always ready to join in and help in all his endeavors. While serving at the traditional service, you can tell that our Lord has blessed him, and he is happy to praise our Savior!

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter