

“ Member Profile”

This week’s feature : Chuck Sieving



Chuck was born in Toledo, Ohio. He was baptized and confirmed at Salem Lutheran Church in Toledo. He attended DeVilbiss High School, and then continued his higher education earning a Bachelor Degree in Architecture at Ohio University in 1963. His family included an older brother, Robert (Bob), who is a member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Lucas, Ohio.

After college graduation, Chuck attended the Army Corps of Engineers School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. He spent 15 months at Fort Lee, Virginia, and 6 months in Naha, Okinawa. Although the Vietnam War was in full swing, he was discharged after two years of active duty as a 1st Lieutenant, only to spend three more years as a commissioned officer reservist with a special army (RA) construction engineer battalion in Toledo. Thank you Chuck for your service to our country!

After his overseas assignment, he began working for an architectural/engineering firm in his hometown; then moved to Cleveland seven years later to work for a shopping center developer. Another opportunity in architecture came joining a firm in Mansfield, where he was living only a few miles from his brother’s farm near Lexington, Ohio. He became a member of First Lutheran in Mansfield. It was then that Chuck passed his State Boards in Columbus to obtain his Ohio Architectural License that he has had for 49 years.

Several years later, he moved back to Cleveland to join the Jacobs Group in Westlake, where he developed 60% of their regional shopping center portfolio until 2000. He felt

comfortable working and living in Westlake as his cousin and her family lived in Fairview Park. His need for a vibrant church community landed him at POP. His cousin, Jan Schoch, and her family joined our church later where she is still a current member. When the Jacobs Group closed their offices, Chuck joined HWH Architects downtown but eventually ended up working at Sandvick Architects until 2015, where he retired into a part time position with that firm for eight more years. He is currently working on a project in San Antonio, Texas, but has informed his wife that this is his “last” project. Hard to know if she is convinced.

His better half, Kathleen, was raised in Minnesota in a Roman Catholic community. They met when she was a secretary for the mall manager at Wausau Center, Wisconsin. Chuck had designed a J.C. Penney Store which was a new anchor for this shopping center, and while overseeing its construction, became friends with Kathleen. As time passed, they started dating long distance; and eventually married here at Prince of Peace on September 9, 1989.

Chuck has three children; a son, Chris, from a previous marriage, 55 years of age; step-daughter, Carla, 54 years of age, and step-son, Tony, 53 years of age, none of which are living in this area.

He joined POP twice, first with Pastor Eugene Loehrke who was a terrific spiritual leader. Next was Pastor Coffman who married Chuck and Kathleen in 1989. In 2000, they left for membership at Bethesda-on-the-Bay Lutheran in Bay Village about the time they built a new home in North Ridgeville. A few years ago, Kathleen wanted to re-join her Catholic community and is now a member of St. Raphael Roman Catholic Church while Chuck re-joined POP for a second time. They attend activities at both churches to share their spiritual life together.

Chuck joined the chancel choir at the POP traditional service. His interest in singing began under his father’s direction at Salem Lutheran. He attends Bible study mid-week, and helps out with the Property Committee when he can be of assistance. His hobbies and interests include bowling and pickle ball. Walking and working out at the YMCA, as well as enjoying model trains with his brother and son, give him pleasure. Painting using computer technology is on the horizon. Traveling with Kathleen is always a great adventure, but especially so when she was employed as a flight attendant with Continental.

Something that people may not know about Chuck is that during his first membership here, he traveled to Germany with our choir and sang with a German choir in a German Lutheran Church. Both groups learned phonics of each language so they could sing

together in both German and English. Our organist came along and played their pipe organ. As a group, they later traveled through parts of France and Germany. Two years later, the German choir came here for a big concert at POP to a packed congregation. A trip to Cleveland landmarks included Put-in-Bay, Blossom and the Amish farms, followed by a Washington D.C. visit. We exchanged gifts to keep as a memory. POP received new choir robes which are still in use on some special occasions.

Chuck also co-chaired the new education wing which now sits on the southeast side of our church. The rose window at the south entrance was a gift from Pastor Landis and Judy Coffman. Chuck and Kathleen went with Landis and Judy to the window factory where they selected the colored glass in that rose window; an experience that was a very special treat for them. Chuck is a big part of our past, present, and future here at POP. As God will guide us, I know he will be listening intently for what comes next.

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter