

“ New Member Profile “

This week's feature : Connie and Alden McGee



Alden was born in Winston-Salem, NC and grew up in Worthington, OH with one sister who has passed away. After high school, he attended Ohio State University and Franklin University. He majored in Surveying/Engineering. He earned a Professional Registration in 1970 from the Ohio Board of Registration for Engineers and Surveyors. Alden began working for Stricklen-Belsheim and Associates Consulting Engineers as “The Print Boy”. After several years he bought the firm. Later, at the age of 60, Moody-Nolan Architects and Engineers made him an offer he could not refuse, “If you work for 5 years as Director of Engineering they would buy his firm and he could retire”.

He was heavily involved with The Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio, The American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, and The American Society of Professional Surveyors. Other areas he was involved in were the Industry Advisory Board for The Ohio State University, Columbus State Community College and the Muskingum Area Technical College.

Connie was born in Kingston, Pennsylvania (outside of Scranton). She grew up with a sister Carol who was 7 years her senior, and passed away some years ago. The family moved several times until her high school years, including Lansdowne, PA (outside of Philadelphia). At 3 years of age they moved to Avon Lake, OH. At age 5 they moved to Rosedale Park, Michigan (outside of Detroit), and at 12 they moved to Drexel Hill, PA (again, outside of Philadelphia). Their final move took the family to Worthington, Oh (outside of Columbus) when she was 15.

Connie studied 2 years at Ohio Wesleyan University and 2 years at Ohio State University. She focused on a Geography Major and earned her degree in 1961. Upon graduation, she began her career working for the Columbus Public Library for 6 years. Connie retired to become a stay at home wife and mom in her first marriage. Her daughter, Tracy was born in 1969 and her son Joey was born in 1971. Tracy never married and passed away in 2015. Joey lives in Avon Lake with wife Gwen. They both teach in the Avon Lake School System. They have 3 daughters, Libby (25) who lives in Bay Village working as a Social Worker. Mallory (23) lives in Chicago and is getting her masters from Loyola University. And Courtney (21) is a junior at Ohio State University.

Alden also has children from a previous marriage. John (age 60) is a retired firefighter married to Karen with a granddaughter Kayla (13). Joel (57), is a professional surveyor married to wife Jane with a grandson Cameron(25). Elizabeth (54) works as a teacher and is married to Shawn with granddaughters Heidi (21), Lexi (21) and grandson Xander (16). Both Connie and Alden are proud grandparents of this blended family, sharing their Love!

In 1997, Connie and Alden went to their 40 th high school reunion at Worthington High not knowing what it would hold for them. They had not dated during the time they were in school together, but this meeting would be the opportunity that would join them in marriage. In 1999 they tied the knot and are still going strong. This coming May of 2024, they will celebrate their 25 th anniversary!

As they had been attending a few other Lutheran Churches in the area over the last few years, they had not found a church home. They do travel to Florida in the winter and return to their current Avon home each year in the spring. After a visit to Prince of Peace, they were happy to discover the warm and welcoming congregation. They also discovered Pastor Charlie had served at a church in Westerville, OH close to Worthington, OH where they lived for 25 years. The sermons are always something they look forward to. Connie and Alden officially became members in October after attending for nearly 2 years!

They are checking out various activities to participate in. Connie's main interests in her free time is being with family, and the joy of reading. She enjoys organizing their home. She considers herself shy, but is learning members' names along the way. Alden has participated in the POP Golf Outing to benefit the National Youth Gathering. The team he played on won the first place trophy, he says it was beginners luck! His other hobbies include cars, he has owned 7 Corvettes over the years after being involved in the Central Ohio Corvette Club. Golf and home remodeling also keep him busy. Something people may not know is that he used to be very shy.

You can meet them weekly as they attend the 11 am service. Worship is the cornerstone of the relationship they have with God. Remember, they will be getting tanned in the Sunshine State over the winter. Just look for an infectious smile they both carry everywhere!

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter