

Member Profile Story

This week's feature : Marilyn Wingfield



Marilyn was born in South Bend, Indiana. She grew up in Cleveland, Ohio close to the airport . (Almost as close to an airport hangar that you can get.) She went to West Tech High School and also John Marshall High School. Her education major was business and she attended Sawyer Business School when it was located on West 117th St. and Lorain Rd.

Marilyn met her husband through her late sister-in-law, they both worked at the same company. Don (her late husband) and Marilyn attended Puritas Lutheran Church. Unfortunately, Puritas closed its doors, so they were looking for another church. Her children are Michelle, age 57, who works at Lorain Community College. She works in Human Resources and teaches 3 courses. Also Jeff , age 55, who works at Chevy.

Marilyn considers both Mary Meadows and Barb Fronczak to be her mentors here at Prince of Peace. Barb brings her communion once a month since she no longer drives. She recalls a time when she played "Happy Birthday" for the Sunday School for Beverly Braun's birthday! She loves to sing, express herself on paper, bake and continue learning in many areas.

She wrote for the North Olmsted MS support group once a month when speakers would lecture. She summarized what they discussed in order for shut-ins to know about the subject and information for that particular evening. She has other interests to enjoy including singing. For a while, she lost much of her singing voice, but some of it has come back. She also loves working with elementary school children. Marilyn finds the children she was involved with to be very respectful and actually had similar protocols that she had in elementary school. They formed lines to participate in activities, and the walls in the hallways encouraged kindness wherever you observed. She advocated for a student that was labeled as a slow reader and spoke up. He was shy, but understood what he was reading.

Since Marilyn was a stay at home mother and homemaker, she volunteered in many areas. They include tutoring at Valley View Elementary School, secular and church choirs (the churches they were attended at the time); Meals on Wheels, Fairview Hunger Center, Library (typed envelopes and labels for newsletters to send to new residents), played the piano at the Nursing Home on Rocky River Drive (church services that Holy Cross Lutheran Church held there), played the piano (as an amateur) for Puritas Lutheran, sang solos there and cantored, and volunteered at Puritas Lutheran community meals once a month.

As a side note: Don (her late husband) and Marilyn worked at the newer Cleveland Browns Stadium that was built after the Cleveland Municipal Stadium was demolished. They loved the fans, supervisors, etc. This was such a "family" with the employees. Marilyn had never been a person that liked large crowds, but this was different, such a great bunch of individuals.

The only drawback was the cold (so near to the lake that it was impossible to get warmed up). After 13 years, she couldn't handle the cold anymore. Don worked an additional 2 years when he had to stop since his health wasn't good anymore.

Marilyn has focused her life supporting her family, community and many important causes. Her efforts have made a big difference! It was a blessing to learn her story. The fabric of Prince of Peace is woven with people that are living their life devoted to following Jesus!

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter