

## “Member Profile”

This week’s feature : Linda Gareau



Linda was born in Cleveland and grew up with 2 brothers. She was raised in the Catholic faith. Her family later moved to Erie, Pa and finally to Boardman, OH. Her father was working for a company promoting magazine subscriptions. Later he established himself in that business as a franchise owner. Her mother would assist him in his work. In her high school years, her parents purchased a farm and then a type of culture shock took hold. A large property to maintain with much work was involved. Attending a very small high school, this was an unexpected lifestyle change, her graduation class was barely 100 students.

She would return to the Cleveland area to receive a degree at Cuyahoga Community College West Campus and Remington College. She would go

on to meet her husband at a college party. They have since been divorced. Some of her early work included manager of Sisters of St. Joseph group home for developmentally disabled residents and a car salesperson. After the 2008 economic downturn, car sales positions were being cut back. Linda's training prepared her to become a Pharmacy Technician. She is currently working at The Cleveland Clinic Cancer Infusion Center in Strongsville.

Linda is especially proud of her 4 children. Cherie, age 45, resides in Atlanta. Patrice, 43, lives in Nashville, David, age 39, resides in Amherst. The youngest one Christopher, 37, lives in Florida. She has been blessed to celebrate life with her 8 grandchildren that are spread far and wide! Her brother Rob continues to live on the family farm in Mahoning County and has retired after a military career. Brother Michael lives in North Carolina and works in a sales position.

On a trip she had made years ago to run errands, she passed by Prince of Peace. As she was ahead of schedule that Sunday morning, she decided to come in to discover what POP was all about. The band was playing "A New Hallelujah" by her favorite musical writer Michael W. Smith. This inspired her greatly, and she decided to join! Linda has been involved in many missions here at POP. She currently is a member of The Altar Guild, working to prepare the church weekly for services and keeping the facility always looking beautiful. She participates in the Women's Discipleship Group and is a member of Church Council in her first year as a part of the engagement committee.

Some of her interests include Puzzles, Reading, playing with her puppy "Charlie". He is a mix of Shih Tzu/ Poodle and King Charles Cavalier. On a recent trip to North Carolina, she was able to hear a performance by Michael W. Smith. But hiking the steep trails was something best left to view from a distance. Her love of butterflies is a reminder of her mother as they were released at her funeral. As we approach spring, she will be part of the rebirth theme as many beautiful butterflies will be placed throughout

our church. A collection of Angels also is a way she welcomes people into her home with a blessing.

Linda has much to celebrate with loving children, grandchildren, brothers, and a very meaningful career. She has chosen POP as her Faith Family and knows how much God's Love has blessed her! You will see her sitting with the Altar Guild team every week at the contemporary service. Get to know her, you will find a sincere person always ready to help build up our church!

*By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter*