

# “Member Profile”

This week’s feature: *Jim Jaracz*



New Member Jim Jaracz joined Prince of Peace Church in June of 2019. He has been retired for about 15 years, and says he is a “putterer” around the house and yard. He loves the theater and attends the Playhouse Square Broadway Series and the Clague Playhouse.

Jim grew up on the east side of Cleveland close to Slavic Village and in Newburgh Heights. He went to St. Ignatius High School, graduating in 1957. After high school he worked for Western Electric for a year, and then volunteered for the Draft. He did his basic training in Fort Knox, and he was in the Army a total of six years, including active duty and the reserves. Jim spent 13 months in Korea. This was after the Korean War and before the Vietnam conflict began. One of his interesting tasks during his stay in Korea was to be a mentor to a young man in the Korean army.

After the army Jim took a job with the Prehler Co, a subsidiary of 3M, as a Sales Coordinator in Customer Service. Prehler was an electric distributor. They transferred him to St. Paul, MN for a year and then to Atlanta, GA for 7

years, where he worked supervising the sales office and warehouse. Then he transferred back to Cleveland in 1972, and he and his wife bought a home in North Olmsted. In 1979 Jim changed companies to work for Red Seal Electric Co. and retired after 24 years in 2004. They downsized to a cluster home in North Ridgeville in 2005.

Jim and his wife had three children. Their oldest daughter passed away at the age of 53 from cancer, she had two sons. Their second child, Nancy has a son and a daughter of her own. Their youngest, son Joe, currently lives in Avon with his wife, and is a sales manager with Pro Tech, a company that sells protection and surveillance equipment to law Enforcement. Joe has two daughters, which makes a total of six grandchildren, and now, there are two great grandchildren. Sadly, Jim's wife passed away in 2016, the same year that their daughter passed.

Jim says there is a recent bright side to his story. When living in North Olmsted, his family lived next door to the Kastners. Growing up, his three kids played with the Kastner Kids. He kept in touch with Marge, who is a long-time member of POP, and they have recently married. Marge also loves the theater as well. I had a great interview with Jim, and I am happy for both Jim and Marge, both wonderful people.

By the way, Jim says that most people at POP don't know that he sang in the Choir at St. Richards Parish in North Olmsted, for 15 years. They also don't know that he has a computer program that allows him to make all his greeting cards. I think that's neat!

*By Dick Hardy, Profile Reporter*