

“Members Story”

This week’s feature : Bill, Laurie, and Julia Vorobej



Bill was born in Oberammergau, Germany and grew up in Cleveland from the age of six months. He attended West High School and received a degree in Psychology at Cleveland State University. Laurie was born in Cleveland and grew up with 2 older brothers, Rick and Terry. She attended schools at Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Lutheran West, Kent State University, and Cleveland State University. She received an Education degree in English grades 6-12 and a Masters Degree in Reading grades K-12. They have raised 2 daughters, Dr. Christina, 39, practicing sports medicine in Charlotte and Julia, 36, who grew up in Westlake attending Westlake High School, Kent State University, Polaris, and Cuyahoga Community College.

Bill started a career in 1977 at MetLife in sales then management, later opening his own agency in 1984 with primary sales of Farmers Insurance products. Laurie taught English in North Olmsted for 35 years, mostly at the

high school level. Julia has held positions working in the restaurant industry and factory work. She met her fiancé Ryn at the restaurant and bar where he worked at the time. She is happy to spend time with her 11 year old black lab, Loki.

Laurie and Bill left Mt. Calvary church in Cleveland a number of years ago to come to POP for a more positive environment, a closer location and a more up-lifting message from Pastor Bishop. When they left Mt. Calvary, Laurie had been the music director for 40 years. Her duties included directing the choir, organizing the children's choir, leading the contemporary service, and occasionally playing the organ. She was seeking a welcoming church that preached the Gospel with truth, love and inclusion.

Julia has arrived at POP following a similar path. She found our congregation to be welcoming and it renewed her hope in church and Christian people. She was in the Praise band for a few years, offering her singing talent to serve God! She enjoys spending time with family, and is always interested in music. Animals bring her much happiness as well. Her favorite color has been teal ever since she saw the Caribbean Sea as a child.

Bill's hobbies and interests include traveling, and yard work. Something people may not know is that they went to Germany last year to see the Passion Play in the town of his birth! The play is performed every 10 years. In her free time, Laurie also enjoys traveling, gardening, sewing, quilting, and embroidery. They take their motorhome on vacations; Florida is a favorite destination! Both Bill and Laurie have been volunteers at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for the last 15 years. Something people may not know is that Laurie has sung in many choirs and at numerous weddings and recitals in the area including the stage at Severance Hall. To keep them on their toes, they have an adorable Yorkie named Jack.

They often are the Greeters at the contemporary service as you enter. The family is a great example of a welcoming church that leaves people filled with the Holy Spirit! I am glad I got to know them better, you will too.

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter