

“Member Profile”

This week’s feature: Karen and Mark Givens



I don’t know many folks from Kokomo, Indiana, but I do know Mark and Karen Givens. They were born at the same hospital with the same doctor, only 11 months apart. They went to different high schools, and met at a high school basketball game through a mutual friend. Karen was a National Merit Scholar. She has a younger sister and younger brother. Mark has a younger sister. Karen is of Swedish and Norwegian descent and has been a life-long Lutheran, while Mark is Scottish and was raised in the Christian Church Disciples of Christ.

Their own family consists of three children. William, who is 33, lives at home. Younger son Mike who is married to Sarah (Sarah Elizabeth), is a Chemical Engineer. They have two boys: Philip age 3, and Daniel age 2. Mike’s wife, Sarah has her degree in nursing and currently works part time at University Hospitals. Mark and Karen’s youngest is daughter Sarah (Sarah Ruth) who has a degree in Massage Therapy from the Cleveland Institute of Medical Massage. She lives in Middleburgh Heights with her two boys; Nathan who is 6 and Owyn who is 4 months. She plans on going back to work at Massage Green Spa when Owyn is a little older.

After High School, Karen attended IUPUI, which is Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis. IUPUI is core campus of Indiana University also offering degrees from Purdue University. Karen graduated with her degree in Dental Hygiene. Mark attended Rose-Hulman Institute of

Technology, a private college specializing in teaching engineering, math and science, located in Terre Haute, Indiana. He graduated with a degree in Computer Science. After college Mark got a job in computer systems with US Steel in Lorain, Ohio, and Karen worked in Dental Hygiene once she got to Ohio. After two years, Mark took a job with General Electric, then with a consulting company, and for the last 31 years has been with Rockwell Automation. While she was raising the family, Karen started part-time as an Avon Rep. She has now been with Avon for 31 years as well, recently in the Great Northern Mall. She has done well enough, in fact, to earn a number of incentive trips including, Hawaii, Alaska, San Francisco, Jamaica, The Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. So, both Mark and Karen love to travel. They love being with and playing with the grandkids. Mark is a bowler, and Karen loves to shop. Both are avid readers.

They came to Prince of Peace Church when the congregation of St. Andrew Lutheran Church merged with POP. Mark is active as a Prayer Leader, with the Men's Bible Study, as a Communion Assistant, and he leads the Gospel Bible Study each Sunday after the 9:00 am service. I have known both Mark and Karen since my days at St. Andrew, and you cannot find more wonderful and bright people.

By Dick Hardy, Profile Reporter