

Barbara DeLancey

I was raised in Southeastern Michigan. My family (of 6) was active in the Congregational Church, where I was baptized and confirmed. We all sang in the choir. In high school, to sing with my friends, I joined the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church youth choir – my first exposure to Presbyterian worship!

Then it was off to UM for college and graduate school (BSN and Master's Degree in Parent-Child Nursing). Over the next 20 years I worked in the Emergency Department at UM and was in charge of the Poison Control Center. I stopped working at the hospital when my youngest was born – and got involved with school, church and community activities.

John and I met in 1979 and were married in 1980. Our oldest child, J.O., was born in 1982, Claire in 1990 and Lang in 1994. We were members at Westminster Presbyterian but then J.O. became good friends with Ben Lindvall and when we moved across town joined First Pres. From the start, it was clear that we had found our church family. Our children quickly became active in the wonderful children's and youth programs, and we started volunteering.

About 20 years ago, Betsy McCallister and I, working under the direction of Debbie MacVey, began teaching "God's Plan for Growing Up" a program developed by the Presbyterian Church USA, that teaches children about God's gift of sexuality. After several years of all grades of students we focused on elementary school students with the "Wonderfully Made" curriculum for grades 2-3, and "Amazing Stuff" for grades 4-5. These classes have been very well attended and currently we repeat the "Amazing Stuff" class annually for 4th and 5th grades in the winter with a concurrent class/discussion group for parents led by Debbie MacVey.

In 2000 I was elected as an Elder and served as chair of Campus Ministry for the next several years. After my youngest started college in 2014 I joined the chancel choir and it has been a joy to sing under Tom and Doris Granum's talented leadership. In 2017 I joined the team of Stephen Ministers. It is truly a gift to walk on a spiritual journey with members of our congregation in need of support. Currently I am serving on the Nominating Committee and Safety Committee.

Over the past 25 years of membership at First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor has brought a wonderful richness to our family's lives. We look forward to many more wonderful years here.