

Betsy McCallister

Volunteerism has been a joy in my life for a long time. Before starting our family Ben and I took a year to do volunteer medical work in Manipal, India and Northern Thailand. We were blessed in both settings to be immersed in the culture and got far more than we gave. I was able to take a primary health clinic and introduce water projects and an immunization program to eight surrounding hill tribe villages, which was challenging, fascinating and rewarding. When not away in a neighboring village, I helped Ben who ran the small, very challenging hospital. The experience was unlike anything we could have imagined.

Ben and I moved to Ann Arbor in 1991 and were quickly introduced to First Pres by two Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Members, my dear Uncle Dave and Aunt Martha Krehbiel. It has been a wonderful spiritual home ever since. We became members and enjoyed bringing our four children up here.

I am an Adult Nurse Practitioner with experience in college health, international public health and prison health but my years in Ann Arbor have been devoted to family and community volunteer work. First Pres has offered wonderful opportunities for me to grow, experience fellowship and serve.

I have been fortunate to enjoy ministry with children of every age: from the toddler to the college small group. My current involvement includes teaching 6th and 7th grade Sunday School which I've done for many years. I also lead a weekly small group of young women through Young Life College, a connection made through First Pres. some 10 years ago. I have 15 years experience co-teaching a 6 week sexuality curriculum to our elementary youth.

I have also had the opportunity over the years to serve on committees (YEMC, Youth Director Search Committee, Resident Ministry Endowment Feasibility Study, and Youth Ministry Overview Study). One of my favorite things about being part of First Pres is the opportunity to be involved in local mission. Being able to connect to programs like Family to Family Christmas, Alpha House and CASS has been such a gift to me and it is an area that I look forward to devoting more time and energy.

Some parts of our community that I have been able to serve include our public schools, Dawn Farm (where I am serving on the Board of Directors), Big Brothers Big Sisters (where I am a Big), and Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. If you're interested in any of these, please ask!