

Clifton Presbyterian Church

MEMBERS' MEMORIES OF THE DECADES

2020

Ruth Ann's Story



I joined the church in June 2020. Pastor Jeri called to confirm that the church directory was correct and that I was not currently a member, and invited me to the new member class. I joined the class of eight with others who had also been regular attendees at Clifton.

My husband Bob and I had attended Clifton over ten years. When we were looking for a new church, we visited Clifton in the summer and found a warm welcome there. Bob was used to a small church and I had never attended a small church. But we both were drawn to the focus on missions and giving back to the community. Pastor Lynn and Pastor Jen made us want to attend on a regular basis, - just not

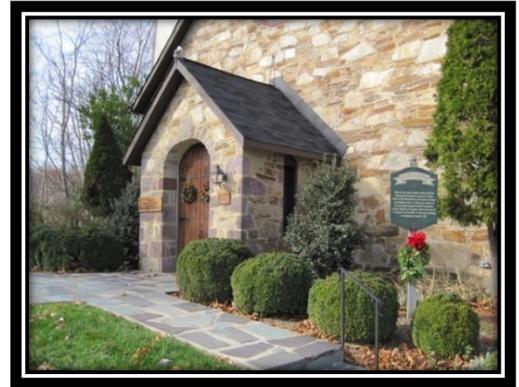
at the early service!

Bob had been diagnosed with Parkinson's and while early in the disease, he did have challenges. Early on, Tricia Hedrick came all the way to Reston Hospital to see Bob, a visit that showed us what this church was all about. Through our journey with Parkinson's until his death in 2016 we were supported with prayers and love from so many people here including the Grief Support Group led by Nancy Scott.



I have enjoyed participating in Women's Bible Study going back to the days of Kate Canady and now with Francine Maestri, helping decorate the church for Christmas with Peggy Cranston, OWLS with Bette's great lunch and the local mission activities including WFCM and the Lamb Center. It is a real comfort to know that when something happens and I need prayers, I can always call someone at Clifton. I treasure the friends I have gotten to know here.

2020 has been a very different year in so many ways. But at Clifton Presbyterian Church we learned that you don't have to be in a building to be a church - that the church is the people. Zoom brings us together in so many ways. My life sometimes seems to revolve around Zoom these days and I really look forward to being together in person again at church and in all of my life. As we move in that direction, I am grateful that we have Pastor Diane to help us on this journey. Meeting her on the porch was special and we look forward to moving inside.



Marcia's Story

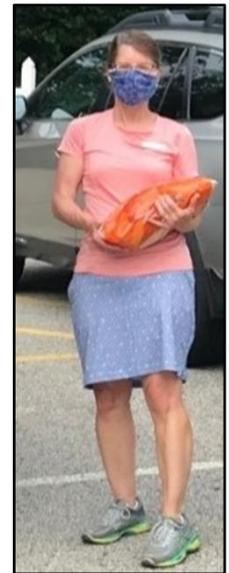
CPC has been a special place for me ever since I first entered it in the Spring of 1997. I admired the beauty of the church, was intrigued by its history, and I loved its picturesque setting on the hill in Clifton. I arrived to apply for a teaching position at the preschool, which fortunately I was offered and happily accepted. A few years

later I accepted the position of Educational Director of the preschool. I continued teaching as well as working alongside Gretchen Reamy as co-director of the preschool.

In all the years I taught at the preschool I gradually was introduced to many church members. I came to know



them as they served on the Preschool committee, and I met several volunteers as they were in and out of the church Monday through Friday. I was impressed as I saw so many people volunteering in many capacities. They were cooking for the Lamb center, fixing equipment on the playground, decorating for Christmas, performing all the routine maintenance our building requires, shoveling snow and helping out in the office. Others showed up every Tuesday morning for Bible study or once a month for the OWLS luncheon.



I saw backpacks piled up by the door, the Angel Tree set up every Christmas, and boxes of food for Thanksgiving and Christmas being delivered to families in need.

I was drawn more and more to CPC and began attending the Sunday service. I was always welcomed so warmly and made to feel comfortable at bible study or any event I participated in. I found the sanctuary to be so peaceful and the music inspiring.



As I became more involved I learned about the community of faithful people who pray for each other in times of illness or sorrow, who celebrate together in joy, and who are always there to give a hand when help is needed.

I was so drawn to this community of people worshiping together and serving together that I wanted to make my long association with CPC official and I became a member this year. My strong faith which began as a child growing up in the Catholic Church has been enhanced by the people and community of CPC and I am grateful to be included as a member.