

OUR STORIES

Full Circle

from Margaret Oosterman

*An inspiring story from our parish to fill
your day with joy.*



Generosity Stories

We are delighted to share that our Stewardship Team continues to work with a program hosted by the Lutheran synod called Stewardship for All Seasons. As a part of this program, our overall goal for our congregation is to build a culture of generosity. We have so many wonderful stories of generosity right here in our own community, and we will be sharing those with you on a more consistent basis.

Be on the lookout for "Our Stories" in your email, in our Weekly Announcements, on our website, and on our Facebook page.

We are grateful for those who are sharing their stories to help get this important ministry started.

When I was a teenager growing up in Lynchburg, my dad bought property on SML when it was under construction. Fast-forward about 50 years, and Carl and I have built our retirement home on the same property. The original cottage, which had been held together with duct tape, had been torn down. After moving here in 2010, we had planned to visit several churches in the area. Our first visit was to Trinity. It became our only visit to a church. We walked into Trinity one Sunday. The greeter warmly welcomed us, and after learning that we were Episcopalian, alerted the Senior Warden, who introduced herself and explained the church's three-denominational make-up. A retired naval man appeared to greet Carl, recently retired from the Navy. After the service, another person showed us around the church. We knew we had found our church home.

Carl and I have enjoyed participating in many small-group offerings. But pastoral care ministry has always been closest to my heart. I have served about 30 years in this type of ministry, and my feeling of commitment has intensified--I think--because I continue to become more aware of God's working through people who give generously of their time, talent, and resources. When I walk into church on Sunday mornings, I am touched by seeing people caring for one another. On visits, I hear how folks have helped others. Individually and as a whole community, our church supports our surrounding area and beyond.

My parents were my role models for generosity. I know that my dad in his profession served folks who he knew could not pay him. I saw my mom volunteering at church, cooking meals, and visiting hurting people. Each Christmas, I remember that as a child my mom showed me how to clean prices off cans of food with Ajax cleanser, then wrap each can in tissue paper to deliver to a woman in need.

I hope that Trinity Ecumenical Parish will continue to respond generously to God's call to serve. I also want to be a part of that community.

-Margaret Oosterman

