

*Judy McMichael has been a member of St. Paul's Wurttemberg for over 80 years. She grew up as a child in the church, was married there in 1962 and continues to regularly attend Sunday worship. She has been privileged to have known 11 Pastors of the Church. Here, in her own words, are her recollections.*

My roots, memories and journey started at St. Paul's in the early 1940's. My parents were weekenders in the area and eventually bought property and moved to Rhinebeck in 1944. On Sundays my mother would bring me to Sunday School when I was just 4 years old.

Several years passed and my neighbor, William Seabrook, was attending Sunday School at St. Paul's and I said that I would like to go with him. At that time, I was not baptized since my father was not a religious man and my mother did not have a religious preference. I think I was about 7 or 8 when I started attending Sunday School regularly.

My first Pastor was the Rev. Elder Jay Himes (#1), who made a visit to our house which really surprised my dad! I remember Sunday School picnics behind the church where the old one-room school was located. We would have Easter Service on the front steps, and someone asked me to pass the offering plate. I nearly crawled under the steps!

I was 12 years old when I was baptized by Pastor Rev. Carl A. Romoser (2) on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1949. The Frost ladies were my Sunday School teachers, especially "Aunt" Sarah. My confirmation was on Palm Sunday, March 18, 1951, by Pastor Rev. Herbert Finch (3).

I was privileged to go to Silver Bay Lutheran Camp at Lake George for a week in July 1954. I continued to attend Sunday School until I went into Nursing School in 1955.

During high school I continued to sing in the choir. The pastor then was the Rev. John L. dePapp (4).

Herb and I were married on October 13, 1962, by Pastor Rev. Rolf W. Eschke (5). Our sons, Steven and Shawn were baptized in 1963 and 1965 by Pastor Rev. Frederick C. Dunn (6).

Over the next several years we came to know 4 new Pastors at St. Paul's Wurtemberg (Rev. William Beck, Rev. Sylvester Bader, Rev. Daniel Strobel and Rev. Richard Mowry) and finally our current Pastor, Rev. Dr. Mark Isaacs. I do not think there are any other members have had the opportunity to worship with so many Pastors!

These are some of the interesting activities I have been involved with at our church:

LCW: Lutheran Church Women – a group of ladies from the church got together once a month. We held many events in support of our community and church. I remember making Easter Trees for the pediatric patients at Northern Dutchess Hospital. We made Christmas swags for the church windows. We held Strawberry Festivals in June. I remember being in charge as we made our own shortcake and event picked the berries. All of us were so young then! We also did Easter Egg hunts and Sunday School Picnics.

Dinners: I remember "recruiting" people to wait on tables and the Fancy Goods Table. And when Fritz put together the "Mission" supper with German Food I organized the Dining Room. We also had an Italian supper and other ethnic food suppers, and I made side dishes for many years. Years ago, parishioners would go to each other's homes for supper.

Passion Play: A truly memorable experience was the trip to Germany in 2010 with our Lutheran friends to see the Passion Play at Oberammergau.

There are so many other things that I could write about. I remember the horse sheds along the road and the one room school behind the church; the booth we used to have at the Dutchess County Fair in the 1940's; when we only had Communion 7 times a year; the Christmas decorations and cedar trees around the posts in the Church; the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with something going on all through the year, and over the years St. Paul's is my spiritual home. My Mom, Dad, brother and his wife, Herb and son Shawn are all buried in the St. Paul's Wurtemberg Cemetery.

In the words of Winston Churchill, “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

I could go on . . .

Judy McMichael