

HISTORY OF MARILYN MEINEN

My husband, Ernie, and I joined St. Paul's soon after we were married. Ernie had a Lutheran background and I was a Methodist. (My grandfather was a Methodist minister) We visited several different churches, but when we came to St. Paul's everyone was so friendly and welcoming to us that we came back. Within a short time the pastor, Ray Beals, made a visit to our home and invited us to join the church, which we did soon after that.

We were invited to sing in the choir right away and we have always enjoyed the singing and the fellowship.

When our children were born they all attended Sunday School. They weren't very old when they sat in a pew during church while their parents were both in the choir. Two of them were later married in the church.

With being a downtown church, we have worshipped with people of different culture, race and creed. I think that was important to all of our family.

We had many wonderful pastors who have helped us develop our spiritual life. We also have many close friends at church and we feel like they are all our family.

There have been many changes during our years at St. Paul's, the greatest was probably the fire in 1979 when we had to move around a lot. With each move we always made sure St. Paul's Community Center had facilities for their program also.

We have served many mission programs over the years including my sister, Vivian Woodyard, when she was a missionary in Africa.

Our church is small now, but I feel it is important that we are still downtown to serve the neighborhood as well as those who call St. Paul's our home.