

by
Wanda Ray

What brought us to Deer Park in the first place was we were getting ready for house-hunting. At first we thought of the Iroquois Park area because Earl's sister lived there. But then we learned about Highland Middle School as a possibility for our oldest child David to attend. He would be able to start with the Summer Band and Orchestra program as a seventh grader. So he began and we started looking for a home nearby. Lillian and Mildred Robertson's mother had worked at a little store in the Parkland neighborhood where we were from. They were active at Deer Park and learned we were looking for a home to buy in the Highlands. By the time we got to church we found we knew a half dozen members already.

David had been taking the bus to school. He told a girl we went there. She asked, "What street?" "Maryland, she said, "Come to our church. My dad is the pastor." The girl? Bunny Sharp.

We attended immediately (December 1964). Carman Sharphad made note to visit us because he saw the moving van. But we joined on a Sunday night--just before our pastor could make that visit!

I started serving in the nursery not long after we came. Mike (age 3) and Linda (age 10) knew several kids from Longfellow Elementary School. All five of us got involved in the life of our new church right away.

We remember on a Sunday night when Bonnie Campbell's daughter Theresa was working in the nursery. It was Mike's first time. He settled right in with her. He saw same kind of fine truths and love being taught that he knew at home.

Over the years I did a lot of babysitting. Many of them were church kids. Earl was working for the Post Office in those days

What has kept us at Deer Park? After more than 50 years as Deer Parkers we can readily say there have been a bunch of good pastors, our involvement in missions, being needed as volunteers, attending WMU and Sunday School (with some wonderful teachers). Yes, the church is smaller than it was when we first came but that's okay because we got to know people even better.

Earl and I are especially blessed because for half a century getting to church was easy and very convenient. We only lived three doors away! We love Deer Park.