

Spotlight on Sandi Nicholson

If you come to church on the first Sunday in any month, chances are that you will be greeted at the parking lot door by Sandi Nicholson and Marilyn Forster. Sandi is our featured parishioner this month, and she is well known for the warm hugs that she offers. She tells us that when she was first asked if she would be willing to be a greeter, she was happy to agree to do this, and naturally opened up her arms to welcome people to church. Many people responded with a hug, thinking that was what she was offering, and it quickly became her favorite way to greet. Sandi is on the Communications Committee at Immanuel, she makes phone calls to shut ins who cannot attend church and often works the admission or ticket table for parish events like Markets or Teas.

Sandi was born in Regina, and attended St. Philips (where she first became a greeter). In 1955 she married her husband Merv, a sailor in the Navy, and they moved to Halifax where they lived for five years. They had two children, three grandchildren and nine great grandchildren!

Sandi worked for the provincial government (Dept. of Labour) for 25 years and says she enjoyed her work contributing to the workings of government. On retirement, she and her husband built a home at Alice Beach on Long Lake, where they spent their summers. In the winter months, they used to house sit all over B.C. – Vancouver, Salt Spring Island, Chilliwack, Peachland, and Gabriola Island - and while there they attended Anglican churches in each community. Merv used to do pencil sketches of the churches. They returned to Regina when Sandi turned 70. Merv passed away in 2023 and Sandi now lives with her daughter, Leslie.



When she was in her 50's, Sandi was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, which now necessitates the use of a walker. Sandi had an episode of worsening of her condition a while ago, and she had to resort to a wheelchair for about a month. She is grateful to now be back to the walker and she keeps a positive attitude about her condition.

Sandi used to belong to a group of ladies called the Red Hatters who would meet for lunches and fellowship. Inspired by an idea created at St. Philips by Donalda Ford for all the ladies to wear a hat on Mother's Day, she and Marilyn took the idea one step further for a PWRDF fundraiser. For several years they pledged a certain amount for each lady who wore a hat on Mothers' Day, and even provided hats for those who came without. It was a great fundraiser, as some people also contributed or matched their original donation. And, there was a spin-off, for men wearing ties on Fathers' Day!

Sandi enjoys doing crossword puzzles, reading, watching TV and simply sitting back in her big chair. She also used to love to travel and has been on cruises to the Caribbean and to Alaska.

Thank you, Sandi for sharing your story with us!