

Spotlight Joanne Shurvin-Martin

Our Spotlight for July is shining on Joanne Shurvin-Martin. As the daughter of an Anglican priest, Joanne grew up in various rectories across the diocese in Qu'Appelle. Born in Lucky Lake, the family moved to Shaunavon where she attended Kindergarten; by Grade 1 the family had moved again to Whitewood, where they stayed until the start of her Grade 9 year. She remembers that at age 15, with her learner's licence, she would drive her dad from Whitewood to other points for a second service, often 20 miles away. So, she had lots of highway driving experience at a young age.

The family moved to Estevan, where she attended high school. She moved to Regina to attend university here, but returned to her home in Estevan on holidays and for summer jobs. She graduated from the U of R with a Bachelor of Arts degree, major in English.

After graduation Joanne had some short-term employment, then was hired by Sasktel working in her field of study in PR, then moved to Sask Power doing more of the same thing... creating newsletters, news releases, brochures, annual reports and so on. Her proof-reading skills developed to the point where she now finds typos in restaurant menus and similar places. Today at Immanuel she is our go-to proof reader for all communications. Joanne retired when her second child was born and became a full-time mom – which she says involved working harder than in her office jobs!



Joanne met her husband Walter at a cousin's wedding. They had 3 children - Nicole, Chris and Victoria. Sadly, Chris passed away suddenly at age 29 in 2021. She is a proud grandma to one seven-month-old grand-daughter, who lives in Regina, and has a wonderful 3-year-old dog, Kova.

Her husband Walter was in the Army Reserve for 35 years, which involved being away from home for a lot of training, sometimes for lengthy periods. He served 10 months in Bosnia, and twice in Afghanistan, first for 4 months and then 10 months. Those combat missions were more stressful for the family at home than the training sessions.

In the later years of his career, he became the trainer, including lengthy stints in Kingston and Edmonton, as well as a few weeks in Ukraine in 2012. Joanne says it was gratifying to know that no-one was shooting at him during training, but life without him had its challenges.

Before joining Immanuel, Joanne attended St. James and was on Vestry there. When the five churches amalgamated to become Immanuel, she was part of the Transition Team under the leadership of Rev. Diane Guilford.

Outside of church activities, Joanne enjoys knitting while watching TV, and reading. She and her husband are members of the Ale and Lager Enthusiasts of Saskatchewan (ALES), where they both judge at competitions - having to analyze the beer (not just sit around drinking it, she says!).

Lastly, Joanne has been the Qu'Appelle editor for the *Saskatchewan Anglican* newspaper since she was in her early twenties. She retired when her children were little, but picked it up later. She says she is now ready to retire from this again!

Thank you, Joanne for sharing your interesting story with us!