

Bio Linda Dudley

At the time I was growing up and the rural location, if your parents, a family member or a neighbor didn't take you to church, you didn't go. It also depended on if there was a minister in the area. My parents really weren't church going people, so I wasn't brought up in the church. It wasn't until we moved into town and I could walk to a church that I started going on my own. I was only able to go occasionally, but I did get to go to a couple of church camps, Vacation Bible School and joined a Youth Group. It was during of the Youth Revivals that I was baptized for the first time.

Because I married a divorced man, we could not join the Baptist Church, so we started going to the St. Matthew Presbyterian Church in Grandview, MO in 1970. I joined the church that year and have been a Presbyterian ever since.

Now, I am very sorry to admit it, but I let someone else decide if we were going to go to church or not. I kept as active in church as I could, but it wasn't until my divorce in 2000 that I was able to get involved as much as I wanted to. At this time I was a a member of the Crocker Presbyterian Church and on January 14, 2001 they gave me the honor of becoming an Elder and being a member of the Session. As a Commissioner for the church, I went to presbytery meetings and to one General Assembly meeting.

Rev. Bill Knudsen was the minister then. He and his wife Gloria were very supportive in my growth in the church. Because of their encouragement, support, guidance and trust, I drew even closer to God.

Since completion of my CLP training in John Calvin Presbytery, I have moved to Adrian, MO and the Heartland Presbytery. Rev. Dick Pierson has been my mentor for the past year at the Butler Presbyterian Church and he has been very gracious with his time and knowledge. He has been teaching me how to prepare the various services of the church and has let me serve in the pulpit a few Sundays for him. I am also in a women's Bible study group.

I cannot explain why, but I have always been drawn to the church, to serve God. It brings me peace and contentment as nothing else can. I would like very much to continue my services as a CLP. I want to help where needed.

Since being accepted as a CLP and put on the Pulpit Supply List B, I have had the good fortune to be able to do what I had only dreamed of before. Latour Presbyterian Church called me in 2008 with Blairstown call the following week. Because they were in driving distance, I was able to serve both of them on the same Sunday. Then in 2009, the Presbyterian Church in Pleasanton, KS called. I have been Pulpit Supply for the three churches since. Until Blairstown closed, then only two.

In 2015 I became a Chaplain at Cass Regional Medical Center where I serve not only the patients, but the staff, volunteers and families as well. During this time I moved to Harrisonville, MO. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve where I have been needed.