

St. Luke's Profile: Joyce Tiemann

Written by Bonnie Watters for the November 2000 LITS

Joyce Tiemann is a very private person, a lovely lady who radiates a warm and safe zone, one which is both comforting and consoling. It is just safe to be in her midst and she in ours.



Born in Orange, NJ, her family moved to Cavendish in 1933. She is the youngest of the three children. One of her favorite memories as a child was when grandmother came in the summers and the children were treated to ice cream sodas at the soda fountain once in the Chester drugstore. Her early education through seventh grade was with eight others in the little Cavendish Center schoolhouse. But when her father joined the war effort, the family moved about the country, first to Louisville, KY where her school population soared to 3000! You might say Joyce learned adaptability rather quickly and her path of life echoes that trait. Her siblings remained New Englanders; her brother lives in Maine, her sister in Andover. And after many journeys to several continents, Joyce returned to stay here as well.

The Tiemanns returned to Brattleboro, VT from Columbus, GA when Joyce was a teenager. After finishing high school at Brimmer & May School in Boston, she earned her associate degree in secretarial studies from Bryant College. Travel remains an avid interest for Joyce. And throughout her more than fifty-year work life, she did travel and did see the country – and the world. Perhaps it was because she started her career with American Express! After a stint with Time Magazine she went to London with the U. S. Air Force as a civilian. Her favorite memory is the coronation of Elizabeth II firsthand. Then in the mid fifties she took a position at the Tuck School at Dartmouth College. Wanting to see the country again and enjoying the academic atmosphere, she took a job at Stanford University; and subsequently returned back east to Boston to M.I.T and Dartmouth. In between those assignments she spent fifteen months in Australia and New Zealand.

A deep faith drew Joyce to spend several months at St. Helena Convent where she became an associate. Continuing her walk in this direction Joyce took a position with the Church Counseling Service of the Diocese of Albany and worked for the Order of Holy Cross, the companion monastery to St. Helena's. Perhaps this is why today Joyce gleans much personal joy from participation in quiet days and religious retreats to satisfy her personal, private callings to Christ.

Finally in 1971 she returned "home" to Cavendish, establishing her own secretarial business. (She confides that she still uses shorthand—her own brand adapted from Gregg—as many of us do.) For twelve years Joyce worked for Springfield Hospital.

When Joyce first retired she became involved with the operation of the Cavendish Library and remained interested in bringing the Cavendish Community Library to fruition. Enhancing her ministry she attended Trinity Episcopal School for a year of study, and received a diploma in lay ministry. A stroke in 1996 slowed her down a bit, but not spiritually.

Joyce Tiemann has served the Lord and her church steadfastly and unselfishly. For the 29 years Joyce graced Gethesame in Proctorsville she attended almost every diocesan convention, served on two search committees which culminated in hires of the Rev Frank H. Moss, III and Andrew G. Osmun. During those years the Proctorsville church was "yoked" to St. Luke's and the young rectors made treks through the Gulf to services north of Chester through every season. During her nearly three decades at Gethesame Joyce did everything from serve as an acolyte to vestry person and just about everything in between. She intends to ease into worship duties at St. Luke's and is looking forward to helping with the Homework Club. Her lovely voice and love of music add much to the congregation's contribution to music worship at St. Luke's. Always one to be counted on, Joyce has served the Church on both the Diocesan Evangelism Committee and the National Presiding Bishops Fund.

Having known Joyce Tiemann for 26 of her 29 years touching the St. Luke's community, I can say it feels very warm and comfortable having her close and near to us at St. Luke's where she belongs –and just down a few houses on Main Street. —Bonnie Watters