

## Story of Faith: Louly Hay

Was it the Holy Spirit cartwheeling and dancing into my life when I was 55 years old? Suddenly I had time to catch my breath and plot my own course! I looked back on growing up in a home of books, music, and purpose, with splendid parents and sister and brother. I thought of happy times in Covington Grammar School, Newton County High, college. I pondered in my heart my meeting Sam Burney Hay, Jr., at the county swimming pool in 1953, he the Auburn athlete, a Presbyterian “preacher’s kid,” now a Newton County farmer. Strong and agile, he loved people and life, could entertain any audience. I was smitten. We married six years later, and I was in for super busy times as farmer’s wife and mother of four incredible children - Sacred ground in my heart - I felt called to be engaged in it all.

Following years of caregiving for older family members, I did have opportunity to be just me! Through the nudging of special ministers and seminary interns I enrolled part time at Columbia Theological Seminary. A student again, I was intrigued by the community of faith and nurture, the enrichment of the classroom experience with outstanding professors. Again, maybe it was the Holy Spirit cartwheeling. I received a call from Conyers Presbyterian Church to become a PCUSA associate pastor, and what a fulfilling time my years were as part of that congregation.

My invitation to be a trustee of Presbyterian Homes of Georgia seemed to be another call; so, too, the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees of Columbia Seminary. Blessings abounded!

How deeply grateful I am for my years. “The lines for me have fallen in pleasant places.” Wow, the joy that seven grandchildren give me. Wow, how blissfully I am loved by my children and their spouses. Wow, what FPC Covington means to me!

My mother used to say, “The Lord works in mischievous ways,” paraphrasing the poet’s “mysterious ways, ...wonders to perform.”

The Psalmist’s assertion is, “goodness and mercy shall run after me all the days of my life!!” I attest to all of that with a very big Wow and a trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to cartwheel and dance along with me!

Thanks be to God!