

Story of Faith: Miriam Wheeler

I was raised at First Presbyterian Church in Covington. That is my church home & always has been!! As a child I attended Sunday School & VBS. I can still call the names of my friends who attended FPC at that time. When I went to college for 2 years to Milledgeville, I attended the Presbyterian Church there. Coming back to Covington I married & came home to FPC. My husband taught middle school kids & I taught the little ones. Eleanor & I helped start the 3-5 year old Sunday school class. It was a good group of kids full of life!

For a few years I served as Sunday school Supt. I finally attended an adult SS class taught by Don Bollinger & learned a lot in those years. During that time I also helped our Seminary Intern with the youth-middle and high school kids. That was quite an experience for me BUT that was when I knew I needed to depend & pray to God. I guess I started using my religion & counting on God for guidance & help. I was divorced & had 2 young kids. I had no training in any job as such. I had been a stay at home Mom most of my early years.

So, I went to work for Jo McLaney at the flower shop for 3 years. Then the Lord spoke one night & said--- you need to go back to school. I started looking into this & got me a Grant. I got into Emory at Oxford on a scholarship. Got 3 courses under my belt. "Thank you, Lord," was my nightly prayer! From there I moved back to Georgia College in Milledgeville where I first started college & commuted every day. The only money I had was from the grant, my child support alimony and typing papers for kids at Oxford. Not much but we managed.

Then I got my teaching degree. The Lord opened up a door right away for me to teach in Covington. I started off in 3rd grade but was moved to Kindergarten after Christmas. That was where I had all my training. I was the only person in the county with an early childhood degree with Kindergarten experience. That was the first year the state paid for kindergarten. So, I was a good resource for the county personal & other teachers in the county! God lead & directed me during that time. I was still in Don Bollinger's class during Sunday school & Annette Vaughn was our intern whom we shared with several other churches. I helped chaperone the kids with her and I did enjoy the experience. The kids were questioning their faith & asking lots of questions. It required us both to draw on our training & faith for God to direct & answer the questions. After that time, I came back to work with the little ones. This was a good place for me. But God still challenged me along the way & I had to leap & jump & hopefully do what he wanted!

So, I can't say exactly when I became a Christian because it has been a growing experience. In fact, it is still a growing experience for me. I am eager to learn and to receiving his word.