



Servant of the Heart: DeWitt Helm, Jr.

DeWitt Helm has been selected for the Servant of the Heart Award for the first quarter of 2014. DeWitt joined First Presbyterian in 2003 soon after moving to Beaufort with his wife, Anne Valle Helm, and quickly became involved in community activities. He is a past president of The Point Neighborhood Association. At FPC he has ushered, taught Sunday School and chaired an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. As an Elder (Class of 2010), he served as Chairman of the Planning Committee, Vice Chairman of the Personnel Committee and Liaison to the Board of Deacons. Currently he ushers, serves on several committees and teaches the New Member Class. DeWitt has a son (Frederick), a daughter (McNair) and six grandchildren all of whom live in Virginia. He and Anne live downtown on New Street with Jezebelle, their Australian Shepherd who as a puppy became a member of the family soon after they moved to Beaufort. Jezebelle is with one or both of them most of the time and participated in this interview.

DeWitt is the son of a Presbyterian minister and a school teacher. He was reared in North Carolina, Georgia and Virginia where his father had a variety of pastorates. He was graduated from Woodberry Forest School and Davidson College and served two years in the U.S. Army before beginning a 35 year career in business. After 25 years in pharmaceutical marketing and management in New York City and Richmond, VA, he became President and CEO of the Association of National Advertisers, Inc. (A.N.A., with offices in New York and Washington, has leading national advertisers and Fortune 500 companies as its members.) Just before retiring, DeWitt was elected a Director for Life by the Advertising Council. Two interesting things he shared with me are that while in the army he pushed the button and fired a live anti-aircraft missile on the range at White Sands, NM and, Sergeant's Pet Products – the company that invented the flea collar – was one of the companies he managed during his business career.

DeWitt believes, "Today, FPC has a unique opportunity to build on its history. As we begin our second century, the world challenges us to extend our influence and ministry beyond our immediate walls and truly become a missional church with all that 'missional' implies. I am confident that with God's help, and the DNA we share, we are equal to the challenge."

Thanks DeWitt for giving so freely of your time and talents.

Jane Tarrance