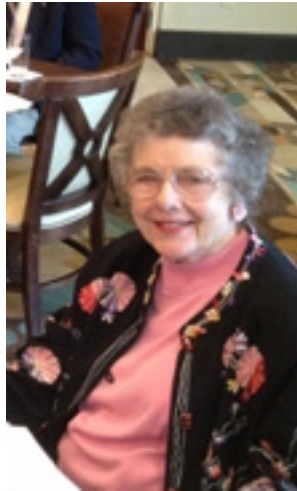


**First Presbyterian Church Servant of the Heart**  
**February 2013**  
**Lee Stockell**



Interviewed 1/23/2013 by Roxanne Cheney

Lee is a southern woman through and through (despite the fact that she was born in Michigan where her father worked for Chrysler Motor Car Company). Her parents were from Nashville and Birmingham, and she spent a lot of time in Nashville during her youth. She was baptized by her great-grandfather, the Rev. James Hugh McNeilly, pastor of Moore Memorial Presbyterian Church in Nashville; years later, she married Charles in the same church (which had become the First Presbyterian Church of Nashville in a different part of the city).

Lee attended Highland Park High School in Michigan where she was editor of the yearbook and wrote for the school paper. Upon graduation in 1946, Lee attended Vanderbilt University (where her grandfather was a professor of engineering), studying English and History. She applied to work on the paper where she met the student editor, Charles Stockell – a decorated veteran of the Normandy invasion and the Battle of the Bulge. After dating some of Charles's fraternity brothers, she decided he was a better catch and the rest is 'herstory'; they married on June 18, 1949, a year before Lee graduated and started teaching high school English and Speech and directing school plays.

Soon thereafter Charles volunteered to return to active duty to participate in the Korean Conflict; for the next 20+ years, he and Lee enjoyed tours of duty in many posts and stations, including Germany; Thailand; and the USSR (where Charles served as Army attaché). He retired from the Army in 1972, the same year their only child, Duncan, was born.

In 1973 the Stockells traveled to Beaufort to visit an Army buddy. They loved the area and decided to build a home in Royal Pines, then a remote community on Lady's Island. They moved into that home (in which they still reside) in January 1974. Charles started a magazine (*Beaufort Land of Isles*) for the Chamber of Commerce and later became Executive Director of the Chamber. He also taught classes about the USSR and international relations at USCB.

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Lee, meanwhile, was busy raising their son and volunteering at his school (Beaufort Academy) and their new church, First Pres. She wrote the church newsletter (according to Lee, “a very folksy, homey affair, not the professional publication it is today”) for Pastor Frank Sells. She served on the Committee that helped found Sea Island Presbyterian and other working groups, including the Nominating Committee. Lee fondly recalled that Allie Guile was one of Duncan’s first Sunday school teachers and she specifically remembered one week when Duncan was the only child present for the Children’s Sermon: Rev. Sells wondered aloud if someone might join the solo toddler and Frank Trimmier went forward to sit with Duncan and listen intently to the pastor’s lesson.

As Duncan grew, the family enjoyed leisure travel to South Africa; Zimbabwe; Europe; and – when Duncan was about 12 – a round-the-world trip that required a great deal of coordination with three airlines (American; a Thai carrier; and SAS). Lee enjoyed golf and fishing, but left hunting to the men.

Lee is a dedicated Bible student, currently enjoying a weekly class taught by the Rev. Jeffrey Miller [at St. Helena] and monthly Bible lessons by Elder Peggy Fryer [for the Mary & Martha Circle]. Her favorite Bible verse is 1 Corinthians 13 (“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal .... Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”).

Lee, the Deacons are especially thankful for your gracious and generous spirit. You set a fine example for all our members by agreeing to help, whenever asked, with a glad heart and smiling face. Thank you for your continued service and support to First Presbyterian!