



This week

Jeanne Atkins is in the Spotlight

Jeanne has three children: Joy in Tennessee, Jacque in South Carolina, and David in Texas.



When she was a child, growing up, Jeanne seldom had any playmates. Not to worry. She had an imagination, and up in the attic was her mother's trunk and an old, windup Victrola.

Jeanne's family moved often, and because of that, her childhood education included 12 different schools. But finally came college. Jeanne loved *all* her college biology classes. However, that love did get her into trouble one Saturday afternoon. While the rest of the girls in her dorm were primping for a big dance, Jeanne was working on an extra-credit project, up to her elbows in one of the dorm's bathtubs, dissecting a piglet. Not being part of the sprucing up, perfume-and-powder crowd, she "had forgotten just how pungent formaldehyde was." Needless to say, her dorm-mates were less than thrilled with the foul odor penetrating their stylish dresses and fancy hairdos.

Travel has been a major hobby for Jeanne. She and her husband have done a variety of excursions, from heli-hiking (using a [helicopter](#) to access remote areas) in British Columbia, to historical studies, e.g., studying the Hopi of Arizona. However, in due course, they discovered *service trips*, where a group works together with a non-profit on some project. "We quickly learned that serving was more rewarding," says Jeanne. They've worked at Mammoth Site (SD) - *digging in a bone bed!* - State Park (Mont.), and Nevada City (Mont.).

Becoming part of FPC three years ago was a "huge adjustment". They'd come from churches with 12 to 25 members, churches where they'd done everything: speaking, cleaning toilets, cutting grass. "But [FPC] is our church home now ... we feel accepted and supported and enjoy helping where needed." And FPC certainly appreciates that help!