

STORIES OF GRACE

Members of our church family share their stories of Grace.

Dottie Sollenberger



I grew up in a Christian home. We lived on a farm and I helped do lots of things on the farm. I especially liked going with my grandfather to bring in the cows. He taught me lots of things.

I became a Christian at seven years of age. We attended a church in the country for Sunday school and church. I had the privilege of going to church camp where I met a dear lifelong friend, to a lot of youth meetings, and youth conferences which were a blessing. I began teaching children in Sunday school when I was 16.

I was married on January 17, 1954 to a wonderful man, Grove Sollenberger. We had thirty-four and one half good years together. On August 16, 1988, the Lord took Grove home to heaven. John is my son, Kristin is my daughter-in law, and my three precious granddaughters are: Jordan, Erin, and Addison. We lived many years in Wayne Heights and in 2005, John and Kristin and I sold our homes and built a home together on land on Marsh Road. I have my own apartment.

We came as a family to Grace Brethren Church in 1970. We were invited to the church by a good friend and neighbor whose children played with our son, John. She taught second grade Sunday school at the church and John was in second grade. We began to attend regularly and in 1971, I became her substitute for second grade. This led me to become the regular teacher and I am still teaching second grade plus this class has been expanded to include grades one through grade three. When you teach, you get to know the children and their family and the children become precious to you instead of just children that attend church and you do not get to know them personally. I get to know and love them more. I also have taught Vacation Bible School, Child Evangelism Fellowship Good News Clubs, helped with SMM (girl's ministry), continue to help in Joy EI Ministry's Released Time Bible Classes, helped in the Waynesboro Welfare Office, work in the Child Evangelism Fellowship Office, 606 Family Gathering kitchen help, and other ministries.

One of the ministries closest to my heart that I am involved in is the Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Project. For the last several years, we have sent 100 shoe boxes filled with personal hygiene items, toys, school supplies, etc. We hope to send more this year. If you would like to help with this project, please give empty shoe boxes to me and I will wrap them with Christmas wrapping paper and have them ready to fill in October. See me if you would like to give supplies to fill these boxes.

We had a group for a long time called Keenages for those over 55 years of age which met once a month for a program and a meal. I had the privilege of serving on this committee to help plan the program. We had good speakers, good food, and a good time together. I also serve on the Flower/Decorating Committee and the Hospitality Committee and enjoy working with these committees.

One of my verses is Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Here is a recipe that I think is good:

RECIPE FOR LIFE

Take equal parts of faith and courage
Mix with a sense of humor
Sprinkle with a few tears
Add a large helping of kindness
Bake in a good natured oven
And dust with laughter
Remove all indulgence
And pity of self.
Serve generously.

Dottie went home to be with the Lord on January 23, 2016