

## **First Church Baldwin – Memories**

**I was very young when I first heard about First Church Baldwin. My mother, Marion Lepley Attridge, was reminiscing about her early life. Her father, Rev. Martin Lepley had been the pastor of First Church when she was a little girl. She was 3 years old when she lived in the parsonage next door, and her sister, my Aunt Edna, was actually born there. Later, her older sister Olive married and lived in a house on Harrison Avenue, right down the block from the church.**

**Many years later, as my parents got older and their children were all married, they moved from Queens Village to a smaller house in Baldwin. I know my mother was thrilled to return to First Church and worship where her father had been the pastor. They grew to love First Church and all the wonderful people who were part of a loving community. They became very active and enjoyed all the years they spent here.**

**While my parents were coming to First Church, I was going to St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Rockville Centre. My parents and I would each talk about all the things we were involved in, so I felt like I knew so many of the people here. I came to many First Church fairs and my Christmas tree still displays hand made ornaments from those fairs. After my mother died in 1996 my father could no longer drive, but he needed to maintain his connections to the people of First Church and to worship here. I brought him every Sunday, and I got to really know the wonderful people in this loving community. When my dad passed away in 1998 I briefly returned to St. Mark's, but I felt lead to return to First Church, and so I did. I joined this church in 2000. The people here have been so loving and supportive that I really feel like I am home.**

**Peter O'Neill led a Disciple Bible Study that became a very important part of my life. It added a depth to a journey I had begun a long time ago, and it gave me the courage to listen and follow God's direction in my life. The wonderful people of First Church have supported me through the storms in my life as well as its high points. Prior to the Disciple Bible Study I would have been surprised if you had told me that I would become a Lay Speaker and give sermons. I would also have been surprised to know that I would make two mission trips to Costa Rica and a trip this year to Biloxi, Mississippi.**

**First Church Baldwin United Methodist Church has had a long and distinguished past. I feel so blessed to have been a small part of it.**