

**Why Don't You Ask My Mother**  
by Gertrude J. O'Neill

I became a member of First Church Baldwin Methodist on Palm Sunday 1959, the same day my son, Peter, was confirmed.

Peter became active in the MYF shortly thereafter but I was working and my hours were irregular and I worked two or three Sundays each month. I retired from N.Y. Telephone in 1974 and became a regular churchgoer on Sundays.

One Sunday before services a lady sat beside me. Her name was Ava Traut. After exchanging pleasantries she asked me if I would be chairman of the Fair! Me? I never worked behind a booth! Ana stated she had been to a meeting which was also attended by Peter and when it came up that a chairman was needed MY SON said "Why don't you ask my Mother?"

Then it started – two years as co-chairman and 7 years as chairman of the U.M.W. Fair. I met many church members and did many things I never thought I could do. It gave me courage to say "yes" when asked to do this or that.

I became a member of the Church Council, the Board of Trustees, Secretary and President of the U.M.W. What were best were the Bible study groups with Rev. Will Hansen and Derryk Moon and the Lenten groups that met at the home of Ruth Mahler.

I made so many friends and a few very close friends. First Church Baldwin United Methodist became my second home: just because my son said "Why don't you ask my Mother?"

Thank you, Peter, and First Church.

Happy Anniversary and may Jesus guide you through another 200 years!