

## Staff Profile: Carol Beyer, Director of Equipping

*This is the sixth in a series of staff profiles, presented so that our St. Mark's family can get better acquainted with our staff. This time we are spotlighting Carol Beyer, our Director of Equipping, who has been on staff since September of 2008.*

*--Donna Lunstrum, Connections editor*

### **When did you and your family come to St. Mark's, and what brought you here?**

We started visiting St. Mark's off and on back in early 1995. When my father was dying in January of 1996, Pastor Hess and Pastor Kaupins both came to the hospital without any communication from us. We were so taken with their concern for a visitor's family member, that we made the decision this was where we needed to be.

### **What's a favorite memory from your childhood, youth, or young adult years?**

I think my fondest memories as a child are of all the activities we were involved in with our neighborhood friends. We had endless games of kick ball, "come as you are" parties, sleepovers, and lots of picnics! We even performed plays for the neighborhood! I also loved spending time with my aunt and uncle (my mother's sister). We always had so much fun together and I looked forward to them visiting on weekends.

### **Tell us about your family...how you and Chip met... about your kids...what you like to do as a family.**

Chip and I met when we both worked at Rockwell. He was installing computer equipment at the time (the early '80s; boy, that dates me) and we would always talk when he was there working; the rest (as they say) is history. We were married June 15, 1985—the exact same date as Pastor Perry and Marlys. We beat them by one hour!

We have two children. Kelsey is 20 and will be a junior this fall at Drake University (Des Moines), majoring in Marketing and minoring in Graphic Design. Kelsey loves to play piano when she can; she took lessons for 13 years, entered competitions, and went to state finals several times. Hunter is 14 and starting high school. He *loves* to play the guitar and also is gifted in art.

One of our favorite things to do as a family is to play board games. We always have a lot of fun and it creates good conversation and many laughs.

### **What does the title "Director of Equipping" mean?**

Director of Equipping is mostly overseeing volunteer efforts inside (and outside) the church walls. Whether it involves working in the kitchen, being a Small Group Leader, or helping with Local Missions activities, I keep track (as much as I can) of all the volunteers that we have in place, trying to make sure that our members are serving, using their gifts and passions. Equipping is my main

responsibility; however, I also do administrative work for Small Groups and help members find the right fit for them, as well as working with our Care Team and sending out the prayer requests.

### **What do you particularly enjoy about your job?**

The best part of my job is talking with people. I really like getting to know all who serve and I enjoy finding out what makes them so passionate for the particular area where they serve. I couldn't ask for a better atmosphere to work in.

### **What do you like about living in this community?**

My family moved here from California when I was a year old. Being in one place as long as I have, really makes me feel like I belong. It's really the only place I've ever known.

### **What are your favorite things to do away from work?**

Shopping, of course! I have always enjoyed landscaping but I haven't been able to do much with that lately, living where we do. I hope that can change again. I also enjoy spending time with friends; mostly sharing a good meal together and listening to live music when we can. And of course, I always love spending time with my children.

### **What's a favorite place that you've lived or visited?**

I didn't live in California long enough to really call it a favorite but when I do visit, I love taking in some of the sights, especially Carmel. And I thoroughly enjoyed visiting Florida. I could walk the beach for hours.

### **What's your favorite worship season?**

Christmas, of course! Isn't it everyone's? But actually, I just love worshipping during the rest of the year, when there is not the busyness of a particular religious holiday. I really enjoy the services here and you just can't beat the music at St. Mark's!

### **Any funny memories or stories about St. Mark's?**

Not a funny memory, just a fond one: our son's baptism. He was the first to be baptized in the new building about fourteen and a half years ago.



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## Staff Profile, cont'd.

### **What's a little piece of trivia about you?**

I come from two strong ethnic backgrounds. I am exactly half Sicilian and half Czechoslovakian. Growing up, we always sat at our dinner table for an hour or sometimes two, engaging in conversation. (That was the Sicilian side). Family was and is very important and we had large family meals once a week. The food was awesome, from both sides! I make a mean spaghetti sauce with meatballs and egg patties using my grandmother's recipe direct from Sicily.

Also, I used to make jewelry by hand with needle and thread— very intricate pieces, long before it was as popular as it is today. I also made and sold ceramic knick-knacks when I was in middle school.

### **Favorite movie? Favorite restaurant?**

"Raiders of the Lost Ark." I love everything about it. It's action packed, funny, and has a great message! My favorite restaurant in this area is *The Atlas* in Iowa City. Their food is made from scratch and it is delicious!

### **What are one or two of your favorite Bible verses?**

One of my favorite verses is Romans 12:2: "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing, and perfect will." I like this verse because I feel that there could be no better time in life than now, that this applies. We live in an extremely busy and confusing

time and I see this as applying more than ever. To be able to discern what is really the truth and not be taken in by the secular world. Truth is important to me.

### **Please share something about your faith journey.**

I would say the most important element in my faith journey is to know that it isn't over. I was raised Catholic but never really was involved with the church growing up. It wasn't until my husband and I met and joined a church together that we started to become more involved and more "in tune" with God's Word. I still look forward to what God wants to share with me.

### **What is your favorite worship song?**

"The Great I Am." I like this song because it clarifies one God: Alpha and Omega . . .

In the words of the song:

*Hallelujah, holy, holy, God Almighty, the great I AM  
Who is worthy, none beside Thee, God Almighty, the great I AM*

*The mountains shake before You, The demons run in fear  
At the mention of the name King of Majesty  
There is no power in hell Or any who can stand  
Before the power and the presence of the great I AM*

This song makes it simple and clear to me that we have one God to worship and He is all powerful, all wise, and all knowing. Our Fortress! It gives me a sense of peace to know that I am NOT in control!