

Carolyn Grant's Spiritual Journey

An Elder since the early 90's, Carolyn moved in across the street from the church in 1982 and a neighbor brought her to FCC where she began attending and was baptized in 1983. Carolyn and husband John have three children, Will, Catherine, and Sarah (Married to Jason Stapleton) and two grandsons, Grant and Hunter Stapleton. Carolyn works as a research assistant at Procter & Gamble. She is an avid cycling enthusiast, loves to run and hike, and create watercolor paintings. Carolyn has served in many ministries over the years including Bible Study, Prayer, and Life Groups, Life Group coaching, ALPHA group leader, missions & outreach team leader, several mission trips, Kids Own Worship, Sunday School teacher, Jr High Youth group leader, Vacation Bible School, Christian Women's Fellowship, Mother to Mother coordinator, and current Board Secretary.
Favorite Scripture: Ephesians 5:22 & 23



What makes a man (or woman) rich? I have been thinking about that question and how it relates to my spiritual growth.

Family

I was born into a family rich in Tradition from two different religions.

Dad. My dad's family in Cincinnati taught me all about the Jewish tradition. I was consecrated at Isaac M. Wise Temple in 1961. Dad took my sister and me to religious school every Saturday where we learned the Old Testament stories which are written in the Torah. We celebrated Chanukah by lighting the candles and had Seder dinner with Grandma and Grandpa Goldman at Passover each year. We also attended our cousin's Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs.

Mom. My mother's family with roots in West Virginia represented music and Christianity via visits to Grandma Carrico's house for Christmas and Easter each year. We went to candlelight services on Christmas Eve. My cousins all knew how to play musical instruments and loved to sing and harmonize. Family gatherings were very warm. My grandmother taught me that it is better to give than receive.

But growing up with two different sets of traditions left me with a sense of not knowing. By the time I left for college in 1974 I considered myself an agnostic- I thought there might be a God, but also began studies in anthropology, believing the theory of evolution to be Truth.

As the college years came to an end, I met a guy who went by the name of Congo John. I knew he was "the one". John and I were married and a year later our first daughter, Sarah, was born. I felt so inadequate as a parent and knew I needed help. We moved to Harrison- right across the street from First Christian Church. Also across Sycamore street lived a nice lady, Helen Miller, who "adopted" us. She taught me how to bake bread, can green beans, and invited me to a Bible study. I was amazed to learn in one of the studies that there were Prophecies in the Old Testament about Jesus, the Messiah. To see how those prophecies were fulfilled and written about in the New Testament was very exciting to me. After learning that it was as easy as asking for forgiveness and asking Jesus to come into my heart, I decided to get baptized. By that time our second Daughter, Catherine, was born and I was 27 years old. Being "Born again" as a young adult gave me such a sense of peace and joy. Since that time I've been involved in many bible studies, prayer groups, life groups and ministries in the church. Over the seasons as we were fixing up our old house, God has continued to work on me.

God has enriched my life in a big way. I never know where he's going to lead me but I trust him, Love Him and now I know he's real.

He is Truth and Life and I am indeed rich for finding Him.