

Nancy McConnell Spiritual Journey

Nancy McConnell has been married to Bill for 18 years and they have served FCC nearly 15 of those. Nancy has been Director of Worship and Administration for the past five years at FCC. They have 7 children and 10 grandchildren and she enjoys their full-house family gatherings.



I started this spiritual journey on a farm in Weldon, Illinois, and am the youngest of four children. My dad passed away three years ago; however, I remember at an early age him telling me not to ever think that I was better than someone or beneath someone. We're all the same! My mom is still living. She was the first person to introduce me to Christ and is certainly the one who inspired me to have a "relationship" with Him. Daily quiet time with God was always part of her routine and she made sure we were in church every Sunday. Their examples were very impactful in my life!

As a youth, my church experiences were not life changing. I remember thinking that God had intended more for us, and I certainly wasn't seeing it. However, I found that "more" by attending church camp for three years. That was where God became real to me. That was where I saw the five purposes of a healthy Body in play: fellowship, evangelism (you certainly told your friends about it), worship, service and discipleship. I gave my life to Christ at the age of 12 in my bedroom – just me and Jesus. However, because of a little teen rebellion I remained out of the church from 14 through 24 and did not get baptized until I was 25.

My senior year of high school, I dated my children's dad, Gregg. Before long, a wedding was in the works for September. As I walked up to receive my graduation diploma, I was the only one who knew I was six weeks pregnant. Abortion was never an option for me; I knew this was a precious life inside of me that God had created and for whom He had a special plan. Suddenly, I was married, had a full-time job and started doing all the things that go with it at the ripe old age of 18.

Then on January 15, 1973, Klint was born. I fell in love with this amazing miracle from God. God blessed me with two more miracles when Josh was born in October of 1976 and Jackie in September of 1982.

For several years Gregg's and my marriage deteriorated but we stayed in "denial." The spiral down continued until we separated in 1983 and subsequently divorced the next year. Horrific is the best way I can describe that event. The next five years of single parenting were probably the most difficult of my life and yet a time where God stretched me beyond anything I thought possible to grow me spiritually and totally depend on Him. I have lived in four states, moved more times than I want to remember, and worked full-time for most of my adult life. All this has made me much more responsive to God's call on my life.

Bill and I began dating long-distance, and in July of 1988 we married, bringing his four children (Mack, Meg, David and Robin) together as a blended family of nine. That was not an easy task and we made several mistakes, but God taught us a lot of lessons along the way—mostly about relationships. In addition, Bill and I have three daughters-in-law and 10 grandchildren. I don't have enough space to tell you about everyone who makes my life wonderful and full.

It was an early dream of Bill's and mine to work hand-in-hand in full-time ministry. In 2000, God began to open the doors for me to work at FCC as Director of Worship. I was the last person to agree to take the job. I argued with God that I didn't have a music degree and I could not be a music director. Finally, in the middle of a conference in March 2001, and in the middle of a continuing argument with God, he told me, as clearly as you're reading this: "I don't need a Director of Music. I need a Director of Worship." All my excuses suddenly went out the window as He pierced my heart that day. He and I knew that I could teach people about worshiping God and loving Him with all your heart, soul and mind after all He had done for me. I could teach people about the God who has saved my life, who has redeemed me from the pit, who has forgiven me over and over again, who has rescued my soul, who has never left me nor forsaken me, who has filled my heart with a reason and a purpose for living, who has taken my sometimes upside-down life and turned situations into blessings and ministries (ref. Romans 8:28).

There are many people to tell and for now God has me here in this place and time telling you. You are a precious child of God. He will never leave you nor forsake you. He knows the plans He has for you and they are good and to give you a hope and a future. God can make a way – He HAS made a way for me and He's made a way for you. This is the God who has changed my life and whom I will forever worship and adore.