

Second Union remembers ...



John Alberts

SECOND UNION CHURCH 1992 to the Present

By Mike LaLlave

As John said about me, he's probably not going to like that I write this, since I think he is a lot like me in the sense, that what he does, he does for the love of the Lord and not for the sake of any earthly reward or accolade, but the history of the first 50 years of Second Union, as he said, would not be complete without acknowledging John Alberts and his wife Evelyn as long time solid members of Second Union.

I met John, while we were both working for the US Postal Service. In the late 1980's, while working at the US Postal Academy in Potomac MD, John met, courted and eventually married Evelyn. It was love at first sight. During the time they were courting he sought and was able to obtain a transfer to the San Juan District office, where she worked. That is where I met him. I remember him as a bright and very thorough Labor relations specialist and later Manager of Labor relations. He also served as Mgr Human Resources as well as Postmaster. They both retired a few years ago, and are now serving full time servants in the Lord's business.

50th Jubilee Celebration – 2015

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I really did not get to know John well, till we both attended our respective Emmaus Walks through the Sonlights community (-1992-1993---mine was walk #7 and I believe his was #9). It was around that time that we became close brothers in Christ and good friends, while serving and working for the Lord. After his Emmaus walk, John became a strong leader at Second Union, serving as Chairperson of several committees as well as, Council Secretary, Assistant Council President John has also been a dedicated Sunday School teacher for many years. John also became a strong dedicated leader of our Emmaus community (he himself led about 2 walks as Walk Lay Director as well as serving as an Emmaus Board Member and assisting walks in other capacities, such as Assistant Lay Director for several walks, and as a Table Leader.

John is a strong Christian believer with a very spiritual and at times very practical faith. When things seem to go wrong, John has no qualms about getting on his knees and praying wherever he may be (a story he told me once says it all) It seems that his wife sent him once to the supper market to get something they badly needed at the time for a special dish she was preparing. He could not find the item, and he asked around but no one could help him find it; not wanting to go home without the item, he decided right then and there to get on his knees and pray to the Lord for help. When he finished his prayer and opened his eyes, there, right in front of his eyes was the item he was looking for ---in the lower shelf---only on his knees was he able to find it---it seems the Lord had helped him through his public example of humility, faith and prayer.

John and Evelyn have been both active in Church Outreach programs (they have served or assisted as Outreach Chairpersons and organized support and visits to outside agencies identified for financial support as well as any other support as requested. They are also strong in Inreach programs. Evelyn is a very energetic organizer and follow up leader---she ensures that all the details of a project are covered and that nothing is allowed to fall through the cracks. Evelyn and John both started an Inreach program to help needy members of the church called "Christ's Hands". They organized it and structured it so that any members and friends of the church that were identified in need of help were helped and served by the group. Support to those in need was provided, such as preparation and distribution of meals for those infirm and or sick, providing assistance to those needing help in such areas, such as house cleaning, wheel chair support, and providing drivers to help with doctor appointments and getting groceries for them. Evelyn and John have also organized several get togethers at her home to cheer up and provide Christian fellowship and a meal to those same needy friends and members of the church. Both Evelyn and John have a big heart that is in accordance with what Jesus said in Matthew 25---anything that you did to one of these little ones you did to me---welcome into my Father's kingdom.

I have also learned from John how to practice strong faith and patience. John is one of the most patient persons I have ever met. I sometimes call him St John. I don't know how he keeps his temper in check---he does have one, ---it has to be a saintly virtue.



Evelyn has a big heart and a dedicated spirit to the Lord's work. Socially, she is also a great dancer--- John has difficulty keeping up with her while dancing ---LOL---if Evelyn has her way, their get togethers generally would include some dancing. They both are great fun to be with. They enjoy group games, and to any social gathering they attend they bring board games, which makes for great fun and fellowship.

For several years now, John has been the organizer and editor of both the Lent Devotional booklet as well as the Advent Devotional Booklet. He has done a superb job of getting the devotionals together and then editing them in a spiritual sequence that puts together the message intended by the writers. Great job, John.

Both John and Evelyn have supported Second Union with all resources at their disposal, Financial and otherwise. Both Irma and I love them both, and pray to the Lord that he continue blessing them wherever they may go---they are currently planning to move to Florida.

God bless them both and may he grant them their goals.

