

OUR STORIES

Rooted in Love from Kristie Polk

An inspiring story from our parish to fill your day with joy.



Robin and I moved to Smith Mountain Lake in 2015 after living & working & raising our children in Northern Illinois. When looking for a new church home in Virginia, our search began and ended at Trinity. Its mission of “Loving, Serving, Learning, and Growing Together in Christ” appealed to us and it felt like a perfect fit! Initially, it was the diversity of programming and community engagement that first attracted us to TEP, but it is the depth and scope of these offerings that keep us coming back. Trinity has simultaneously welcomed, encouraged, and supported us over these past ten years; her people have become our extended family.

In our retirement we have the gift of more time. We have traveled to Tanzania and to the holy ground of Iona; we have more time to visit family and friends, and destinations previously unfamiliar to us. Those wonderfully rich experiences come with an imperative to be appreciated, assimilated, and repurposed—somehow re-gifted back to God’s children and creation. I participate in Women’s Retreats, TEP “teams” and small group ministries. . . and I bring my collective experiences with me. Today I’m focusing on the Stephen Ministry and providing pastoral support for our clergy. These endeavors nourish me! In Luke we read, to whom much is given, much will be required. This speaks to the very heart of generosity as a responsive offering of our time, talent and treasure, as we are able. Robin and I strive for connection between our actions and our total giving, hoping to transform our blessings into a blessing for others. And you know what? Full circle: we are blessed yet again.

The theme for the last Women’s Retreat was “Rooted in Love” and each of the participants was given a small plant in a tiny glass pot to take home. Amazingly my little plant is still alive! I give it a little drink every once in awhile and watch it grow and reach for the sunlight. In my quieter moments, I recall 1 Corinthians 3:6, where in a reference to the early Church Paul writes, “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.” As TEP boldly lives into her mission of service, both to congregational members and the larger community, I have one hope. My hope is that Trinity Ecumenical Parish will continue to make a difference by embodying that very name—by reflecting the Father, Son and Holy Spirit back into the world; by swinging her doors wide as an inclusive and inviting house of worship; and by being a “community” that stretches beyond the walls of the building. Then surely God will make it grow, rooted in love.

–Kristie Polk

