

120 YEARS OF FAITH, PART 1

By Joyce & Jennifer Goodman

This year being First Christian Church's 120th anniversary, we wanted to start off our 120 Years of Faith series by sharing how this church family has impacted our own lives. There have been some wonderful spiritually influential brothers and sisters in this family that has become closer to us than our biological family.

The first person that came to mind was Hazel Elliott, Jennifer's 3rd & 4th grade Sunday school teacher. Jennifer had been coming on her own to Sunday school since 1st grade. It started with the babysitter bringing her and then when I no longer worked on Sunday, I would drop her off. One Sunday, orchestrated by God, I accidentally dropped Jennifer off an hour early because of the time change. When I came to pick her up, class was just starting so I stayed at Hazel's invite. That was the life changing moment for me when God took hold of my heart and life and used a precious little "old" lady. Hazel became my mentor and friend, encouraging my walk of faith, as well as being a "grandma" to Jennifer.



Hazel Elliott, Joyce & Jennifer Goodman



Alice Linebarger & Jennifer

There have been a myriad of others over the years whom God has used to shape our faith. One of particular note is Alice Linebarger. Alice always let Jennifer have it when she needed encouragement to step out in faith and do God's will. When Jennifer wisely chose Multnomah Bible College over another school, one of the scholarships fell through and we didn't have enough to cover tuition. While we were praying about this, we got a call from church that a wonderful lady had sold some property and wanted to give some money for Jennifer's tuition. The amount given was the exact amount of the scholarship that fell through. God had already been working on this need before it happened and His timing was perfect. Jennifer also had the fun of having her benefactor as a classmate at MBC, catching rides and good conversations home from time to time.

If it wasn't for these two women of faith impacting our lives, Jennifer would not have gone to Multnomah Bible College; and we would not have started Children's Outreach, bringing kids into the very thing that drew us in the first place—Sunday school. Perhaps our kids will someday have stories of faith and remember teachers like Hazel who loved them enough to want them to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Look for more stories of faith and even a little of FCC's 120 year history in future issues of the Joyline. If you would like to contribute to this series, email missionofprayer@hotmail.com. Our hope in doing this is to remind you all that this is your church family with a long-enduring history of faith-filled brothers and sisters in Christ.

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing,
but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

~ Hebrews 10:24-25