

PIONEER PARISHIONERS

Carol McAdams

Redwood City native Carol McAdams is a pioneer parishioner who continues to help St. Matthias Church. In addition to her other volunteer activities, she recently was selected to serve as co-leader of the Prayer Tree Ministry with Connie Deeney.

Carol says, “My late husband, Bob, helped conduct the door-to door surveys. And, we both worked on the many fund-raising events including dinner parties and the old smoky Bingo Games.”

According to Carol, “Bob also served as a Eucharistic Minister and an Usher and I started my continuing affiliation with our Altar Society.” And, in the Parish’s beginning years, Carol and her teammates would visit children on the anniversary of their First Communion to commemorate the sacrament. She recalls, “We would work with them on simple Christian crafts including making wooden crucifixes and stringing beads for rosaries.” She adds, “We revisited them at that same anniversary time for several years. The kids and parents really enjoyed and appreciated our special visits.”

Carol attended Mt. Carmel Elementary and Mercy High school before graduating from San Jose State. She met and married Bob in her senior year. Carol explains, “We met in Chi-Rho, a club for young Catholics offered by St. Charles Church. We learned a lot more about our religion and also had lots of fun times.”

She continues, “We had an apartment for awhile and then saved enough to purchase our Redwood City home, which put us in the territory assigned to the new St. Matthias Parish.” Bob worked as a lithographer and Carol worked with Hoover School for 20+ years. She has 2 surviving children and 5 grandchildren. (Her middle child, Colleen, died in 2002.)

In addition to her volunteer work at St. Matthias, Carol assists St. Anthony’s Church as a member of the money-counting committee. She also volunteers 2 or 3 days a week at Sequoia Hospital. She says, “We were at the Hospital so often though Bob’s operations and illnesses. I always appreciated how the volunteers helped to make our visiting and waiting times more bearable. So I am glad to be there to help others.”

Volunteering is a family affair. Her son served as an Altar Boy and her daughter is involved with our Prayer Shawl Ministry.

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Carol especially enjoys their annual summer family get-togethers at Huddard Park.

She reports, “We usually gather about 100 relatives for a picnic and we all have a wonderful time.”

In the early days of our parish, Carol and her late husband, Bob, were both active. was born at a Medical Clinic on Middlefield Road (no local hospitals then

Carol adds, “It was a busy and exciting time of new beginnings and new traditions.”

Carol notes, “Our monthly mortgage payment was \$87.50.”

She notes, “But we were very happy when we finally had a real church building.”

And attending mass in the increasingly cramped Hardware Store.”

And Carol, who is a great baker, often brought cookies to share.