

CPC Member Profile

Charles Bretz



I have the unique experience of growing up at Community Presbyterian Church. I was baptized at CPC and participated in the Sunday school program from Kindergarten through Senior High. I returned to CPC after roughly a decade away and now my children are attending the very same Sunday school program I did, well not exactly the same, but you get the idea.

I did not always attend CPC having drifted away from church while at college even though I returned to the area upon graduation, I never seemed to make any services during most of my 20's outside of maybe Easter and Christmas. I never really thought about what was missing in my life until I was thinking about marriage and children and then something started drawing me back.

We visited a number of churches in the area prior to our marriage, but none felt like home. Some were bigger, some smaller, some with more programs than you can count, and some with just a few, but nowhere felt like home...not the people, not the pastor, nothing, until my wife and I stepped in CPC. Growing up in CPC, I was amazed at how much stayed the same, yet also changed. It was the home of my youth, but not the same. People had changed, Pastors had changed, but it was still warm and inviting. My wife Stacey and I really connected with the sermons; they "spoke" to us, we could relate to them, and the people were warm and friendly, but did not make you feel uncomfortable being the "new" person or couple on a Sunday morning, it just felt right.

Since returning to CPC, I've had the pleasure of hearing stories about my youth from past Sunday school teachers, renewed old friendships and have gotten involved in church life. I've had the pleasure of being a Deacon, chairing the Spiritual Outreach and Membership Committee, teaching Sunday school, "acting" in two Living Christmas Tree performances and building the tree for numerous other performances, decorating the church for various functions and finally serving as a church Elder and chairing the Mission Emphasis committee. CPC has afforded me to get involved in areas of interest, when I wanted to, when I felt the need, but also when called upon.

What does CPC mean to me? In one word...family. Members are there to revel in your successes with you but when things are tough, they are there with an ear to listen, a handshake or hug when you need that human connection, a helping hand when you need something done around the house, or even a home cooked meal when you are traversing troubled waters in life and don't have time to eat much less cook, your CPC family is there.