

## CPC Member Profile

# Pat Kimball Martin

In the early 1950's my husband, Charles Kimball, and I joined the young and wonderful congregation of Community Presbyterian Church, who met in the local movie theater. Charlie was immediately put on the committee to raise funds and pledges for our sanctuary. Later, I began teaching Sunday school to a class of eight 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys. They were so responsive and I felt much joy. I invited them one night to a spaghetti dinner, and each boy held one of Lassie's relatively new puppies. It was a fun time.

This experience started me on the path of knowing God's love and protection, which I had always felt but started me to work on developing a stronger faith.

Ours was a busy family and very involved with CPC. Later, I would become president of the Women's Organization. At Charlie's urging, I gave many dinner parties for his best clients. Having always enjoyed young people, I was leader of my daughter's Girl Scout troop. During the winter, I hired a bus every Friday night to chaperone a full busload of high school kids and their skis to different ski venues in our area. They boys always paid their way!



In 1977, Charlie passed away unexpectedly during the night of a heart attack. It was such a shocking and difficult time for my children and me. Since Charlie had always insisted on managing our finances, insurance, etc., I knew nothing. But our dear banker came to the house and told me not to worry, and write a check for my son's final semester of college and a check to cover my daughter's trip to France as an exchange student.

Whenever I felt sorry for myself, I would think of my mother-in-law, whom I loved dearly, who lost her husband and two sons all within seven months. I was able to handle her affairs, see her often in Evanston, and help her in many ways.

We certainly were not in a desperate situation but I know I needed income, so I did the only thing I knew. I started a travel service in my basement. Having been on the Mount Prospect School Board and a volunteer in so many of my interests, I was well know. Most of all them came to me for their travel, and the business grew. I hired and trained one gal who became fantastic. Through my promotional scheme, I picked-up the accounts of Nabisco and Mobil Oil, and had another employee to hire and train. The business flourished.

About this time, Rick Martin, a friend and neighbor whose wife passed away five year previous, asked me to dinner. I was so busy I couldn't possibly go, but the third time he asked me I accepted because I thought he might never ask me again. I found we had so much in common and held mutual ideals. Rick asked me to dance, saying "I really love to dance". This happens to be my favorite hobby and I definitely perked up, and from then on I always had time for Rick.

Several years passed doing many interesting things together, and with grandmother's blessing we were married at home in front of the fireplace with only our two families present. Rick, formerly of South Church, joined our church and we were very happy together. Rick was such an intelligent person with a keen sense of humor and a great influence on my children. He inspired great trust and love.

But I was practically working around the clock even with two employees. Rick told me "I either had to get out of the business or into the business." Together we opened Pat Kimball Travel in downtown Mount Prospect, which eventually led to 11 employees. After seeing many exciting destinations, we sold our business to a Triple A Chicago Motor Club and retired to Wisconsin.

After 25 years of marriage, Rick passed away peacefully; he was very active to the end. I am so grateful that I loved and enjoyed him all these years.

Every life, I'm sure, has its ups-and-downs, tragedies and disappointments, but for myself I would have to say - Stay Positive.

"IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL LIFE". Pat Kimball Martin