

Bev was born in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida while her father was in the navy. She grew up nurtured in a Christian home and church throughout the states of Kansas and Missouri. I remember many times of love and happiness in the growing years. I was confirmed at the First Presbyterian in St. Joseph, Mo., as a new member when I began High School.

Active in the youth groups and many activities at school, I learned the joy of perseverance and the art of musical activity with dance and piano, along with patience in going to my brothers ball games. We were both active in Scouting achieving top honors.

The first time God revealed a plan to me was in the basement of a church. We were reading in Timothy about the calling of God and it particularly hit me that God had a plan for my life.

After college and marriage, I entered the business world of microbiology and spent five years in those efforts. Research centered on vaccines, from a tissue culture base.

The children's father and I then had three boys and moved from our first house to a bigger one. Time slipped by quickly as a mother raising boys and the various church and community activities I was engaged in. Enjoyment in helping the children grow in many ways and volunteerism in the community kept me fairly busy.

Then it seemed like my life fell apart. The marriage was dead with very little communication, respect, and love disappearing into the woodwork. My mother died of a devastating disease which afflicted my father also. Two kids were in school and the third ready to go. I realized I had another life to begin and started thinking of possibilities. It was then that the Lord revealed to me a need to go to seminary and preach the word. The seminary was Central Baptist Theological Seminary where I received the Masters of Divinity degree with all the added Presbyterian requirements. I had two majors, pastoral theology and Biblical Interpretation.

The time flew fast with ordination approaching as a call to a four church parish as associate pastor. Following this, I attended McCormick Theological Seminary while continuing to work in various parishes and receiving the Doctor of Ministry degree. The course work was centered on church revitalization. Most of my ministerial work was in a series of parishes and then to the single church. The children grew up after finishing high school and are now on their life paths.

Retirement came and the search for a part-time call began. When I finally found Rico on the map and the available of the mountain country, I moved fast and so did the church. In February, the U-haul with a car towed behind made a way along I-70 and then down through the mountains.

Coming into Rico was an experience. Men came out of the woodwork to tote my stuff into the one bedroom home the church furnished me. There was a single path through the living room and they kept scratching their heads with the continued avalanche of boxes.

It wasn't long before I made friends. The Rico Library Book Club, the Rico Women's Club, and the various community activities became a part of my life as the people in the church helped me reach out and make a new home.

I am excited with my work at the church. Preaching and administering the sacraments have been a blessing to me. It feels like I'm back in the saddle again with not as much pressure. The Youth Group, ages Kindergarten to sixth grade, has been a special joy, particularly with a couple of youngsters in Junior High to help with the group. As I watch their joy and creativity, I can't help but think of my grandsons (2) and the time I will be able to explore the wilderness activities with them.

I am known as Rev Bev by the people here and I hope to be a friend and spiritual advisor to them all.