



## **Paul & Jane Myers's Biography**

**Sunday 10 Assistant Co-Pastors**

### **1. Childhood events that helped to shape each of us.**

#### ***Paul's Family & Childhood:***

I was born in Bethlehem...no really I was.... Bethlehem, PA in 1952. Shortly after my birth "the family" moved to a small rural community in the mountains of western Pennsylvania called Ridgway. My family was some what unusual by today's changing standards. A father & mother who were never divorced an older sister & younger brother who never got into any "real" trouble. A regular "Leave It To Beaver" family. I was raised by parents who were serious Episcopalians. We did not miss church on Sunday or should I say "theater on Sunday" because that is what church was to me.... a play. You see, Grace Episcopal Church was liturgically a very "high" church. Can anyone say "bells & smells"? I was an altar boy from the age of 8 to 18. I knew the liturgy backward and forwards but thought of Jesus as just another actor in the play.

#### ***Jane's Family & Childhood:***

I was born in Asheville, NC in 1952, but I spent most of my childhood in Ridgway, PA. I was born the second child of 4 – an older sister and two younger brothers. We moved to Sarasota, FL when I was 9 years old and, while there, my sister was killed in a car accident. My mother was devastated and as a result, for the rest of her life, spent frequent stays in hospitals for depression. We moved back to PA when I was a freshman in high school. Although I never saw my father in church, my mother encouraged us to go. I enjoyed singing in the choir at the little Episcopal Church near our home, however I knew only **about** Jesus – I didn't know Him personally.

## 2. How we came to Jesus.

### ***Paul:***

God began the process of getting my attention when I left my sheltered life in Ridgway to attend college in Ohio. Previous successes turned into utter failures. Academically, socially, morally - I was floundering and sinking fast. But I did not turn to the God of my parents during this time of trial but rather Zen Buddhism. After a pilgrimage which lasted 5 years and took me to Japan, my quest for enlightenment ended in discouragement. My spiritual failures led to an utterly self-centered life until once again God began to "shake my tree" while attending a Spirit-filled Episcopal Church my wife had dragged me to.... kicking and screaming. It was while sitting under the Gospel preached at this church that I began to feel the pain that my sins had inflicted on my family. On a Cursillo weekend in 1987 I finally

confessed the depravity of my life and cried out for my savior  
.....JESUS  
CHRIST!!

***Jane:***

From a young age I knew I believed in God and was spiritually hungry, however I tried to fill that hunger with many other things (relationships, drugs, etc.). I was “looking for love in all the wrong places”. It was during my first marriage in 1973 that I recognized how selfish and lost I really was and how much I needed God. My husband’s sister shared the gospel message with me and I embraced Christ as my **Savior**, however my immaturity contributed to my being divorced shortly afterwards – and Jesus began showing me what it meant for Him to become my **Lord**. HE IS SO FAITHFUL!

**How we met, dated & married.**

The main reason life in Ridgway was so wonderful was that we were high school sweethearts! Our first date was observing a solar eclipse. Just the two of us, standing in an open field with a cardboard box over our heads.... now that’s romantic! Although our romance was derailed while Paul was doing his “Buddhist” thing and Jane’s first marriage, we were reunited and eventually married in 1977.

**3. About our family.**

We have been blessed with 4 children:

- Heather, who is married to Michael Smith and is the mother of our 8 grandchildren,
- Janelle, who is married to Jeff Benton and is a middle school teacher.
- Hattie Mae, who is married to George Sandru and works as an Orthodontic Technician and teaches dance,
- Joshua, who is a senior at UGA.

#### **4. Life at Liberty.**

We were both cradle Episcopalians, but after our move to Atlanta from Pittsburgh in 1996 the Lord began a stirring in our spirits that resulted in us visiting Liberty Church. Although quite different in format to what we were accustomed to, we were initially drawn to Liberty by the powerful worship and the anointed teaching of Pastor John who literally brought the word of God alive to us. From that initial experience, what kept us at Liberty were the people and the numerous opportunities to serve. Our church family is the “bestest”... from our spiritual grandparents the Garlington’s, to Mom and Dad (John & Beth), to our small group brothers and sisters, Liberty is about being connected in lasting relationships. Over the years Liberty has provided us with many opportunities to serve our church family by using our gifts in such ministries as prayer walks, servant evangelism, drama, children’s church, clowning, men & women’s ministry, home group leaders, deacons & elders.