

Personality Parade

Marge Sellers Ministry Associate

Marge was born and raised in Detroit. She attended Mumford High until one semester before graduation, when her family moved to Farmington Hills and she transferred to and graduated from North Farmington HS. Following graduation she studied Psychology and Sociology at Wayne State.

After graduation she went to work for the Michigan Institute for Neurological Disorders as a transcriptionist for CAT scan and X-ray reports. Three weeks into her new job, her office got a new computer system and needed someone to run it. They gave Marge all 37 manuals to take home and read. That was the beginning of her career in IT. Eventually she became proficient enough to work as a consultant for other companies. She still works for the MI Institute for Neurological Disorders, now as IT Manager for telephone systems.

Marge met her husband, Mark, while working as a consultant to Oakland Community College's educational testing department. One day, she walked into her office to find a man "with a beard down his chest and hair down to his elbows" sitting in her chair, feet on her desk, talking on her phone. A lively discussion of "whose office is this?" followed. Mark was just discharged from the Air Force and was working there, assisting veterans. As they got to know each other better, they discovered they had many interests in common, including visits to Eastern Market. They began dating and the rest is history! They have been married 41 years.

Marge grew up in the Episcopal church, where her grandmother involved her in all the women's activities. After her marriage, she and Mark (who was from a Missouri Synod Lutheran background) attended a number of churches, finally ending up at Hope and then Antioch where she got to know Interim Pastor Rod Buland, who encouraged her to go to seminary. Marge didn't feel called to this, and Pr. Buland suggested Licensed Lay Ministry. After a long conversation with the person at the Synod office who organized the LLM program, she jumped right in. After completing the program, she came to St. John for her internship and was later hired as Ministry Associate.

Licensed Lay Ministers complete a 2-year program of twelve courses that cover Theology, Worship, Pastoral Care, Christian History, Communications and Church Administration. Following completion of the course they do a one-year internship, after which they can be licensed, subject to approval by the Bishop. They are authorized to lead worship, preach, consecrate the Eucharist, and provide pastoral care. Many of them work as chaplains or supply preachers.

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Mark & Marge Sellers, ready for the next episode of "Outlander."

Personality Parade (*continued*)

As Ministry Associate at St. John, Marge is responsible for a wide variety of duties, including filling in for the pastors when both of them are engaged in other activities, for example, teaching Adult Sunday School when both pastors are involved in S². She is the Lay Assistant at the 11:00 am service every Sunday, and sometimes leads Saturday worship. She is often involved in teaching and providing pastoral care, especially to members who are ill or homebound. Marge will be the primary contact for pastoral assistance during Pastors Bill and Lauren's vacation, beginning July 11.

For the past 40 years, Marge and Mark have raised and shown Bernese Mountain Dogs, and won many awards. They stopped showing several years ago, but still enjoy going to dog shows and catching up with old friends. Since childhood, Marge has enjoyed playing theater organ, although she hasn't had opportunity recently. Her favorites are the old silent film accompaniments.