

Meet our FUMC Family

If you have not met Jennifer Lake yet, you should. Just be prepared to walk away feeling uplifted and amazed. That's the effect that she has on people.

Jen grew up Episcopalian, but when she left home to attend Southwestern University, she did not find a connection at the local Episcopal church. FUMC Georgetown was just down the street, so she decided to give it a try. But she was running late and could not find a parking spot, so she gave up. A few months later she went on a school mission trip where she met a cute, redheaded guy named "Ben." He encouraged her to give FUMCGT another try, so she did.

At first, she did not feel "plugged in" with any groups at the church. But she kept on going back and gradually made a few good friends. Those friends eventually created a new Sunday School class for adults in their twenties and thirties. They named themselves "The Fountain Class." A few years later, some of the older Sunday School classes jokingly referred to them as "The Fountain of Fertility Class." I'm sure I don't need to explain why.

The first time I really got to know Jen was on our first "date." We got coffee on the square and bonded as we talked about the fun and the fears of being first-time moms. We were both pregnant with our firsts and struggling with anxiety. Soon, we were visiting each other and having play dates a few times a week.

Jen (and her family) are valuable members of our church family. Jen served as one of the amazing Learning Tree preschool teachers. Currently, she helps teach Sunday School, and we have all been blessed by her musical talent playing the cello during special services. She also helped create a Bible study for young mothers that met on Friday mornings and included childcare. She also has the gift of gardening and caring for chickens.

Jen recalls that her first memorable interaction was when she got to know Bishop Joe Wilson. She was familiar with who he was and had possibly talked with him a couple of



times in passing. Then one Thursday she skipped chapel to study for a test. Sitting on a sofa outside the cafeteria (waiting for Ben to join her for lunch), Bishop Joe came up behind her, and in his deep voice said, "You know, God would have helped you pass that test if you had been in chapel today." Just thinking about that always brings a smile to her face. A few years later he officiated Jen and Ben's wedding, and he and his wife, Zoe, have been important people in their lives ever since.

Jen and her dad were very close, and he was her role model. She recalls that every day she would walk into the kitchen and see her dad at the table reading his Bible. When he died unexpectedly in 2017, she was devastated. It was her first real experience with death and grief, and she struggled. But that grief evolved into motivation to really connect with other people, like her father did. She wants to be a faithful example to her own family as he was for her.

When I asked her how the church has helped her on her spiritual journey, she responded, "It helped me build lasting relationships by worshiping with people who really care about having authentic connections." I must agree with her. That is why I love this church so much, as well. And I am so grateful that I have Jen in my life.

Written by Karen Jones