

# Meet our FUMC Family

## Meet Donna Connor

“Trees of green, red roses too, I see them bloom for me and for you and I think to myself, what a wonderful world.” This could be Donna Connor’s theme song. The current head of our church’s Getsemani Community Garden has been involved since the garden began. The proceeds go to Helping Hands of Georgetown which provides food for those in the community experiencing food insecurity. The area where the garden is located is sometimes referred to as a food desert. But, we are getting ahead of our story.

Donna was born and grew up in the small town of Panhandle, Texas. Panhandle is about 20 miles from Amarillo and had and currently has a population of about 2000 souls. Donna was the daughter of a farmer dad and teacher mom. The family ancestors came to Panhandle as some of the very first settlers in the 1870s and 1880s. The family was pretty much always at the First Methodist Church of Panhandle.

Donna began her lifelong love of music playing for the church services. Her dad was choir director. Donna never considered anything other than being a Christian and a Methodist.

Donna met the love of her life, Bill Connor, right after finishing her degree at McMurry College, a Methodist institution in Abilene. She had a friend from Midland, and while visiting there met her friend’s friend, Bill Connor. Bill had gone to Southwestern and had his law degree. Donna was mesmerized by Bill, the lawyer from the big city of Houston. The story goes that he had a girlfriend, but as Donna laughingly puts it, “I moved into her spot.” It had to be love at first sight because the pair was engaged within six weeks and were married at the First Methodist Church of Panhandle with a reception that was standard for the time—punch and cake in the Fellowship Hall. This past August 1, they celebrated 52 years of wedded bliss.

Sometimes you get to pick out a place to live and get to live there your whole life. Donna and Bill were able to do just that! After a honeymoon in San Francisco, they moved to Georgetown where Bill had contacts, and they joined our lovely congregation. Two children, Paul and Cynthia, came along. Donna says that she made sure Paul was able to walk well by 11 months so that he could go to our Learning Tree Preschool. She said the moms would take off to Austin to go shopping immediately after dropping off the children.

Although Donna says she has never encountered an angel, she feels strongly that her children did. Paul and Cynthia were out



with friends during one of Houston’s infamous deluges, and the car got swept away. As it was submerging, they were trying to kick out the windows with no success. At an overpass two men had a pole which they used to break the car windows, and everyone was able to crawl out right before the car went under a bridge. It’s still frightening to think how close Donna and Bill came to losing both their children in one night. How did two strangers, in the middle of a storm, happen to have a pole that was long enough to break car windows? Angels? You decide.

When the gardens were first begun, three blocks from The Caring Place, Donna was involved. The gardens were moved to the current Getsemani Ministry Center location when the

church voted to buy the whole block where a small church and house still reside.

Besides Donna’s volunteer work in the garden, she has always been involved in the music ministry of our church. She played piano for the 8:30 AM service for 20 years and led children’s handbells for 14 years. Today, she is still singing in the choir and playing handbells.

Her favorite Bible verse is that God is our refuge and strength. She readily acknowledges that she has led a blessed life. If you would like to meet this charming lady, she’ll be at the gardens on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Stop by and lend her a hand.