

## Highlight on Judy and Howard Gandelot

Judy and Howard Gandelot can hardly remember a time when they weren't together. Both grew up in Grosse Pointe, a suburb of Detroit located on Lake St. Clair Michigan. They are Detroiters or Michiganders through and through, returning each year to their roots and families during the summer. They have known one another since 5<sup>th</sup> grade, started dating just before Howard's 14 th birthday and married in May of 1964. One of five children, Judy's large family easily welcomed Howard into their numbers and he soon became one of the 27, plus or minus, that showed up for the annual Thanksgiving dinner.

After graduating from the University of Michigan with degrees in Chemical and Metallurgical engineering in 1964, Howard joined Procter and Gamble which took them to Cincinnati and Lima, Ohio; Jackson, Tennessee and abroad to Newcastle upon Tyne, England. Following a successful 26-year career with P&G, Howard became the President of American Supplier Institute, which is a non-profit teaching and training organization focused on quality improvement. In 1995, Howard established his own consulting business helping organizations simultaneously improve both work and people systems.

Prior to the adoption of their son Brian, Judy worked as an occupational therapist. However, the birth of their daughter Colette, which followed nine months later, altered her focus toward family and the many opportunities within the various communities in which they lived. In addition to being on the local Wyoming school board, Judy has held several volunteer presidencies, such as; that of the PTA, Board of Wyoming Civic Center and Kindervelt, an auxiliary of Cincinnati Children's Hospital. She is perhaps most proud of the volunteer work she did as President of the Friends of Vision for the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology where she established a support system for visually impaired seniors and adults. She became the Director of Support Services at the DIO and grew the client base from 14 to 250 in six years.

When Judy's widowed sister died, their nephew Jeffery joined the Gandelot family as well. He is 13 years younger than his two older siblings. The Gandelot's have three granddaughters: Jeff has two delightful daughters, five year old Annaliese and two year old Charlotte; and Brian's daughter Courtney is 23.

This warm, loving, and always willing-to-participate couple have been involved in nearly every aspect of church life since they joined SIPC in January of 2002. Howard works with others on the Property Committee to keep the facilities in good working order. The beautiful chest that he built for our reception area speaks to his talents as a woodworker. A tireless worker, Howard has built 53 houses for Habitat for Humanity. He is currently serving his second term as an Elder. Judy served recently on the

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Pastor Nominating Committee and has served as Chair of Mission and Benevolence Committee, concentrating 12 years of dedicated service to Safe Shelter. She served a year and a half as Moderator of Presbyterian Women.

Both Judy and Howard are fine examples of church members who show the face of Jesus to our community. Both are involved in Stephen's Ministry, Judy as a Stephen Minister Leader and Howard as a member of the current class of six Stephen Ministers in training. They speak fondly of the church community, having always found members to be caring and supportive of one another. They both look forward to bringing younger families into the church under Pastor Jeff's guidance. Above all, one can rest assured that whatever changes and commitments SIPC members are prepared to make in the future, both Judy and Howard will be helping to lead the effort.