



SIPC HIGHLIGHTS

Dick and Jean Shomaker

In 1997, Jean and Dick Shomaker came to The Landings and Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church from St. Louis, Missouri where they spent almost thirty years of their lives. They had lived in Carlisle, PA prior to their move to St. Louis so their two boys, Samuel and Steven, were raised in the East and Midwest. The Shomakers became aware of The Landings through friends, bought a condo, and eventually built their home on Sparnel Road in Oakridge.

The two met in college while at University of Wisconsin. Jean is originally from West Virginia but moved to Wisconsin early in her life and Dick hails from Springfield, Illinois. After Dick earned his undergraduate degree, he also received his MBA from Wisconsin. After a stint in the Army with duty in Okinawa at the end of World War II, he worked for Brown Shoe Company for the span of his working career, ending up as President of the Brown Shoe Division. That included 26 factories and many warehouses throughout the Midwest. Traveling proved to be difficult so he earned his pilot's license and could fly the company plane.

After Jean and Dick were married, Jean raised their family and she did a lot of volunteer work. She served as a docent for 10 years at a local zoo and gave lectures and took animals to various schools for educational purposes. She volunteered at their club, Vellerive Country Club in St. Louis, and several schools, but her passion was art. She majored in Art at the university and is quite active in The Landings Art Association and served on its board. Their house is strewn with her beautiful watercolors. Samuel, their oldest son, lives in Seattle, WA with three children and Steven lives in St. Louis, also with three children.

The Shomakers joined SIPC in the early '90's when Harris Ricks were pastor. Dick was elected to The Session three years ago and is in charge of getting ushers for the Sunday service. He has contributed to the paper shredding campaign which earns money for Safe Shelter. Jean is the artist who draws the birthday cards sent out to all congregants. She uses prisma color, which comes from an oil based pencil.

Jean's art keeps her busy, but she also has enjoyed tennis and golf here and has served on the LWGA board. She was a docent at the Skidaway State Park and is an avid reader. Dick has been a golfer since he was 13 and in 1992, was General Chairman of the PGA tournament held at their club in St. Louis, Vellerive Country Club. He was in charge of 1800 volunteers! He was The Landings Assn. Secretary for four years and secretary of the Kiwanis Club. He also helps with the Fishing Derby.

Dick feels that growing the church's membership is a top priority for SIPC and feels Jeff is on the right track in implementing that goal. That said, both he and Jean find it is a warm and caring place and they plan to continue to be active in it.