

## **Living Our Faith Meet Martha**

***An SFX parishioner for: 17 years.*** I began coming to College Church in the late 1990s for the Avent concerts, and was moved by the beauty and the brightness of the music and liturgical dance. I became a parishioner around 2006, having come from three different parishes in North County where I live.

***Living my faith:*** I'm now a member of the Pastoral Council and the Pastoral Care Commission, and I volunteer at the ID and Birth Certificate Outreach Program on Tuesday mornings. I'm also a Eucharistic minister at College Church and SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital, both of which offer grace and blessings.

***Why I'm involved:*** As a result of growing up in a very Franciscan family and graduating from Dominican University in River Forest, Ill., I am admittedly late to Ignatian spirituality. Recently I have found it in the Lightworks program here at College Church. I am inspired by Pope Francis' call for change, for the hope that walking together in synodality will create a more welcoming, more equal and more just Church and community.

***Three words that describe SFX:*** Vulnerable, Listening, Hopeful

***My neighborhood:*** I live in Florissant, but I consider my family to be my community. It includes my daughter, my three grandchildren and now a great-granddaughter, Amelia, who is one and a half. I also count with gratitude my friends at College Church who simply amaze and inspire me. My family once included a dear friend who endured early-onset Alzheimer's and whom I cared for, gifting me the inspiration to volunteer for the Alzheimer's Association for almost 20 years.

***Fun facts:*** Having a degree in economics, I eventually became Vice President of Sales Administration for Schaeffer Oil, a company headquartered in St. Louis. I enjoyed being part of its growth for 27 years.

I once drove a NASCAR race car nine laps around Gateway International Raceway (now World Wide Technology Raceway) reaching a speed of 120.5 mph. When I got back to the office that day, Schaeffer's chairman of the board posted a sign above my office that said, "Welcome home, Smokey!" It was pretty awesome!