

We Are Not Alone

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“We are not alone, we live in God’s World.” Those are the opening words of a statement of faith of the United Church of Canada, found among other creeds and affirmations of faith in the back of the United Methodist Hymnal, number 883.

I was reminded of those words this month at Fay Brim’s memorial service. She was 88, lived a rich and full life, a real southern lady, born in Birmingham, Alabama. She never married, and once quipped that she was “too tall and too smart for those boys in Birmingham.” She seldom talked about it, but she lost her one love in the Second World War, and kept framed prints he had sent her from the Pacific hanging on her walls for sixty years.

Fay was a successful businesswoman in an age when that was nearly unheard of, a savvy investor, happy, wise. And she was family. She and my wife’s family mutually “adopted” each other somewhere along the line. I can’t seem to find the right words to describe the relationship. “Adopted Aunt” comes close but doesn’t really say enough. She was just “family.”

She was also a person of deep faith, a lifelong Methodist and United Methodist, a member of First United Methodist Church of Orlando. A generous giver, she always supported her church’s annual operating fund and capital campaigns. More than that, Fay had a vision for the future mission and ministry of her church, and she did something about it -- something that more of us should consider -- she provided for her church in her estate plan. She left a bequest to her church in Orlando and one in her sister’s name to another United Methodist Church in Birmingham. She also had a Charitable Gift Annuity with the Foundation that not only enhanced her income in her later years but also will now provide additional funds for future mission and ministry at her church.

She was single, but she was never alone, and she leaves a legacy to her friends, her family and to her church. In the words of the creed, “In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.”

And thanks be to God for Fay.

As the stewardship voice of the Florida Conference, the Foundation is ready to help you, your family and your church with anything related to comprehensive Christian stewardship. For help on how to leave a bequest or information on a Charitable Gift Annuity, please call, click or write us at 1-800-282-8011, extension 106; www.fumf.org; or PO Box 3767, Lakeland, FL 33802.