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IT IS WONDERFUL TO THINK THAT FIRST CHURCH IS ABOUT TO CELEBRATE ITS 200<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

BARBARA AND I JOINED FIRST CHURCH IN 1960 AND I WAS A MEMBER FOR 34 YEARS. I HAVE NOTHING BUT THE FINEST MEMORIES OF THOSE YEARS. ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THAT WE DID WAS JOIN THE MERMARS (MERRY MARRIEDS) AND A GREAT PART OF OUR SOCIAL LIFE REVOLVED AROUND THE MANY FRIENDSHIPS THAT WE MADE AND CONTINUE TO HAVE. ONE THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET WAS WHEN JEAN AND RAY HYVONEN AND BARBARA AND I WERE IN CHARGE OF AN EVENING TO GO ROLLER SKATING AT THE MINEOLA SKATING RINK. WHEN THE APPOINTED TIME ARRIVED THE ONLY ONES TO SHOW UP WERE THE FOUR OF US. WE WERE BOTH FAIRLY NEW TO THE GROUP SO WE SAID THAT WE WOULD GO ANYWAY. THE RESULT OF A FUN EVENING WAS THAT WE BECAME CLOSE FRIENDS AND STILL ARE TODAY.

I AM GRATEFUL THAT THE MERMARS NOT ONLY PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR OURSELVES, BUT ALSO PLANNED FAMILY ACTIVITIES. TO NAME A FEW, WEEKENDS AT CAMP QUINPET, OUTDOOR PICNICS, CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTIES WHICH ENABLED OUR CHILDREN TO BECOME FRIENDS TOO. MANY OF THEM HAVE CONTINUED THEIR FRIENDSHIPS.

IN 1994 WE LEFT BALDWIN AND MOVED TO MOUNTAIN MAHON IN THE POCONOS. THERE I BECAME ACTIVE IN THE

EAST STROUDSBURG UMC,

FIVE YEARS AGO WE MOVED TO THE VILLAGES IN FLORIDA.

MY CHURCH HERE HAS THE MOTTO "A PLACE TO CALL HOME". TRUE

THIS IS A WONDERFUL PLACE TO LIVE IN OUR SENIOR YEARS, BUT

NOTHING CAN TAKE THE PLACE OF THE "HOME" THAT WE HAD AT

FIRST CHURCH BALDWIN,

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND GRANT YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN

YOUR 200<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

SINCERELY,

ARTHUR AND BARBARA FOX