

## The North Judson United Methodist Church Trustees' Building and Maintenance Fund

An outstanding community can have an immediate and resounding impact on new residents. The North Judson community is one that is loved by those who have called it home for decades, as well as new move-ins. Barbara and Marvin McLaughlin were two fresh faces in Starke County when they moved from Indianapolis in 1957, and from the start they knew North Judson was the place they would thereafter call home.

Barbara and Marvin both grew up in rural farm communities in Central Indiana. Barbara was born in Crawfordsville in 1930, and Marvin was born in Lebanon in 1929. Though their childhood homes were not far apart, they did not meet until both were students at Butler University. Marvin was visiting a hog farm near Barbara's house when a family friend told Marvin about the girl next door who also went to Butler, and Marvin knew he had to meet her. They met at a corner drugstore near Butler during the next semester and connected instantly. The two were married in August of 1952, right after Barbara graduated from Butler and a year after Marvin graduated.

Upon graduation from Butler, Marvin obtained a Pre-Law degree and Barbara had a degree in Business Administration. Marvin then went to the Indiana University Law School in Indianapolis to finish his studies, and Barbara worked at State Life Insurance until their first child was born. Marvin opened a private practice office in Indianapolis after he graduated from the IU Law School, but both Marvin and Barbara desired to settle in a rural community.

A friend of Marvin's informed him about job opportunities in the North Judson area, and he decided to move the family north, where he would open an office and raise his family. He served as a prosecutor for Starke County for one year before becoming Judge of the Starke County Circuit Court in 1963, a position he held until 1992 when he became a Senior Judge until 2006. Barbara was a stay-at-home mom until their third and final child was in Junior High, and she began part-time work at Final Touch in Knox, where she worked for approximately three years before retiring in the mid-1980s. Marvin and Barbara raised their three children, Lynette, Alan, and Brian, in North Judson, and they couldn't have been happier with that decision.

Barbara loves how welcoming and friendly the community is. "It has created a good life for us and our family," she said.

Their love for the North Judson community was evident from the time they moved to the area. Both Marvin and Barbara were, and still are, very involved with organizations throughout the community. Marvin is currently President of the County Council and is also involved in the North Judson Kiwanis and serves on the Historical Society Board of Directors. He was also a Starke County 4-H leader for 15 years in North Judson. Barbara served on the Starke County Community Foundation board for 12 years, the Starke United Board, and she is currently a member of several women's clubs, including the P.E.O. Sisterhood, and her church's board. She also serves as the

Methodist Women's Society Secretary. Both Marvin and Barbara are also members of the church choir at North Judson United Methodist Church.

In the mid-1990s Barbara was approached by a friend, Cherry Gumz, who was interested in starting a Community Foundation in Starke County. The women started doing research about other Community Foundations being established throughout the state, and worked with fellow community members, including Arlowa Vorm and Frank Allen, in efforts to move the plan forward and establish a Community Foundation. Thanks to financial support from members of the community, Barbara and Marvin were able to help start the Starke County Community Foundation in 1996.

Shortly after the Community Foundation was founded, Marvin and Barbara decided they needed to establish a fund to help another part of the community that they held dear to their hearts: the North Judson United Methodist Church. They created the North Judson United Methodist Church Trustee's Building and Maintenance Fund in 1998, which would endlessly support their church.

"We wanted to create the fund to bring income to something we care very much about," Barbara said.

Marvin and Barbara still reside in North Judson. They fill their time with many hobbies and activities, including traveling, church gatherings, and spending time with friends and family. Marvin is an avid woodworker and golfer, and he loves baseball. Barbara's hobbies include homemaking, decorating, sewing, reading, flower arranging, Pinochle, and spending time with a group of girlfriends. The impact they have made on the community through the support of the Community Foundation and the establishment of their fund will continue to benefit the community they love forever.