

## Where I am from and how I got to Gloria Dei: Eileen Furrer



My journey to Gloria Dei started when I was in college. I was raised in the Baptist church as my grandfather was a minister in a Baptist church in Newark, New Jersey. As I grew up, I did not attend many churches of other protestant denominations and when I went to college, I attended a Baptist church close to my college campus. I had a close friend at school who invited me to attend a service at her Lutheran church. The experience of attending a service at her church had a profound effect on me which stayed with me. I felt right at home in the group of worshipers. When my husband and I wanted to find a church we both could attend, the experience of the Lutheran service came back to me. My husband had been raised in the Catholic faith and of course, I was raised in the Baptist faith. We had to reach an agreement—the Lutheran church was the one we both agreed upon.

We did attend a Lutheran church in Morristown for many years where our children were baptized and also a church in Chatham. We were still looking for the right place for us, when we met up with friends from our original church in Morristown. We started talking about churches we had been to and how they were attending a church in Chatham, Gloria Dei. Our friend talked very enthusiastically about the church and invited us to a service at Gloria Dei. At the time, the church had an interim pastor and he was doing an excellent job leading the congregation. We felt right at home after attending for a few Sundays! After attending the church for a short time we welcomed a new minister and my husband and I became members. It is a decision I am still grateful for making.

I still have questions about my beliefs, but at Gloria Dei, there is freedom to question your beliefs and try to get answers without feeling pressured. I am so happy that I found the church and became a member. I feel right at home here!