

## Karen Street's Bio & Spiritual Journey

I was born and raised in Bozeman, Montana, where mom was a homemaker and r.n., dad the shell oil (union oil) distributor of gas and oil products for the Gallatin Valley. My brother, Ken, is 2 1/2 younger. We attended the Episcopal Church from Jr. high on, participating in usual church activities through high school and college.

David Street and I married in the summer before he began medical school at Tulane in New Orleans. I also got my degree in medical technology there and worked at Southern Baptist Hospital for support. Upon graduation, we moved to St. Francis Hospital in Wichita, KS. for David's internship and 4-yr surgical residency, followed by a fellowship year at the Lahey Clinic in Boston.

He was invited to join a fledgling surgical practice with two brothers he admired; we moved back to Wichita. After settling in, our 1st owned home was about a block away from St. Stephen's Church, our church home for 30+ years. I became a lay reader, eucharistic minister, sang in the choir and joined the ECW (episcopal church women) group where I held several offices, including president.

The years following were the most growth-filled, impactful in my spiritual life as I became UTO (united thank offering) chair and president of the diocesan ECW, followed by province 7 UTO chair; then terms as province 7 representative and vice president for program on the national ECW board. It was the board's task to plan and execute the triennial ECW meeting held in conjunction with the general convention. This included setting up workshops, procuring speakers, planning worship, dinners, tours - the whole nine yards of a national meeting.

It was the era where we'd adopted a new prayer book, and women were challenging hierarchy to become priests. I observed the workings of the house of bishops and house of deputies hammering out resolutions, and the nomination, election, and investiture of a new presiding bishop of the episcopal church, USA! It impressed upon me the beauty, breadth, and depth of our church.

We moved to steamboat in 2002 following David's retirement and St. Paul's became home. We entered its life, David on the vestry as Sr. Warden; I as flower guild member followed by chairing it for 10 years; helping with hospitality, DOK as member and officer, and member of the service (outreach) committee.

We watched Casey's Pond construction from our Tree Haus deck and moved in on opening day, November 2013. It has been a good fit!

David was diagnosed with myelo fibrosis, a fatal blood disorder, in September of 2018 and passed away March 18, 2019, surrounded by family and loved ones. I saw God's hand at work throughout the day in many instances!

You, the people of St. Paul's, are my family since children are distant. You've always supported and cared—thank you!!

My strength/gifts are: the ability to organize and see tasks; hospitality; a voice to sing; a strong faith.

