

Voices OF CHERRY LOG

Our Family is a circle of strength; founded on Faith, Joined in Love Kept by God, Together forever.

- unknown



Carolyn Lakes

Grew up in Northern Indiana. Graduated from Univ of Cincinnati – Elementary Education/Early Childhood Special Education. Before retirement, worked as Developmental Therapist/Early Intervention Specialist with children with special needs. Last 10 years worked as a member of an eligibility determination team. Caroline has 1 daughter and 1 son and is blessed with 5 wonderful grandchildren (Nothing like sitting around a warm fire, overlooking the mountains roasting marshmallows). Met David on first day of summer classes in college and married a year later, June 1, 1968. Interests include hiking and this past year becoming a CASA volunteer, working with foster children and the court system. CLCC: Visited several churches before finding CLCC. Their first Sunday, felt they had found their new church home. Loves inspiring messages from the pulpit, beautiful music, knowledge gained in Sunday school classes, and amazing people they have gotten to know and love.

Ben Encinias

Born and raised in Prince George County just outside of Washington, DC. Oldest of 6 kids. Ben was baptized Catholic, confirmed Presbyterian, and Ordained as a deacon in the Methodist church. In the Air Force for 10 years and went to Vietnam. After Air Force attended many colleges and universities – loves learning.. Has a degrees in Educational Psychology, Guidance Counseling, and Christian Education. Helped start the first Head Start program in Washington, DC. Worked for many years in schools in Florida as a counselor. Ben has one son, Benito, who is married with 3 children. Met Mary at a Play Therapy Workshop. In later years, Ben studied with the Jesuits to become a Spiritual Director. Teaches Yin Yoga in Blairsville and is getting involved with Puppetry for the Gilmer Arts Association. Loves to create. Found CLCC through various members after moving up here in 2012 and loves the community.



Emmie Lee

A genuine Georgia Peach, (great, great, grandfather delivered mail on horseback in Fannin County); born raised educated (Clayton University, business related degree), and lived in Atlanta area; work career began with several years with the IRS, followed by Lassiter Properties beginning 1982 and still working; met and married Johnnie through church music connection; one daughter, one granddaughter and another on the way. Avid reader of everything, especially mysteries; enjoys travel, music (played clarinet in band); loves their cabin on a creek CLCC: from Decatur Disciples church so knew of CLCC: “.it’s a passionate, hardworking [church]..just love it, especially the Sunday School; the warmth, friendliness, community outreach, music...”



Mary Encinias

Born and raised in small town Elyria, OH, west of Cleveland. Youngest of 6 kids. Raised Catholic. Born with genetic disorder called “osteogenesis imperfecta” or more commonly called Brittle Bones. Has had many broken bones over the years. Mary graduated from Kent State in the early 70’s and was very much into “social justice.” Involved in the Catholic worker movement and was a missionary in Mexico, Charlotte, NC and Pensacola, FL. She received a degree in Counseling and worked in child welfare and in the schools in Pensacola, FL with students with mental health disorders. Met Ben at a Play Therapy Workshop. Mary co-parented Ben’s son Benito and now shares 3 grandchildren. Moved to Georgia and bought a cabin in 2012. Found CLCC through the labyrinth and recommendations of several members. Mary loves writing and participating in Blue Ridge community theater. Mary enjoys Centering Prayer Group.

