



This
Fiftieth Reunion Booklet
for the

Christopher Gist High School Class of 1953

was compiled, edited and published by

Carson and Betty Robinson
114 Southridge Drive
Missoula, Montana 59803

from information provided by
fellow classmates and friends of the class.

We would like to thank the classmates
who participated and provided information.
A special thanks is extended to those of you who
provided additional information and assistance
in the publication of this reunion booklet.

The information in this booklet would
not have been possible without
everyone's cooperation and assistance.

We trust that you will enjoy this "Keepsake".

We hope that it has and will invoke
many happy thoughts of your life
and of your golden years to come.



REUNION MENUS

DINNER MENU

Roast Beef
Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Carrots
Broccoli Casserole
Spinach Salad
Rolls
Tea, coffee, soft drinks
Cherries in the snow
Fruit Cobbler

BRUNCH MENU

Breakfast braids
Breakfast casseroles
Muffins and Danish rolls
Juice, coffee, hot tea
Selections for diabetics



HOTEL NORTON

798 Park Avenue, NW
Norton, Virginia

CHRISTOPHER GIST HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1953

Fiftieth Anniversary Commemoration Dinner

Saturday, May 31, 2003

6:00 p. m.

Hotel Norton Lobby

HISTORICAL INFORMATION ABOUT HOTEL NORTON

Built in 1921, the Hotel Norton was designed in the Colonial Revival Style, with a classical tripartite scheme that differentiates the base, middle and top. Its design reflected a trend in the 1920's hotel design that attempted to bring status and a cosmopolitan atmosphere to cities both large and small. In the 1970's and 1980's the abandoned building fell into disrepair. Roof failures caused the wooden floors to rot and collapse. Facing demolition, the building was purchased and structurally stabilized by the City of Norton in 1994, and subsequently rehabilitated for economic development.

Today, stepping into the hotel's lobby is like taking a step back in time. Period reproduction wall scones and droplights are used, along with off-white walls and original tin ceiling. Terrazzo tile, with inlaid marble chips, has been reinstalled to match the original flooring, along with smaller detail tiles. They also are patterned after the original gray, green and salmon color schemes and recreated from old photographs. On the outside, black metal awnings are nearly exact replicas of the originals. On the upper floors, exposed brick walls and wooden doors maintain an historic flair, while providing for the functional needs of modern office space.

A grand opening was held on December 17, 2001 for the newly renovated Historic Hotel Norton. However, instead of serving as a safe haven for weary travelers, the building would now serve as a "new home" for businesses seeking to relocate or expend their corporate operations. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources has added the Hotel Norton to the Virginia Landmarks Register and has recommended the building be considered by the Secretary of Interior for the National Register of Historic Places. Recently, the City of Norton was honored as one of six recipients of the 2002 Virginia Preservation Awards from The Preservation Alliance of Virginia, the State's largest preservation advocacy organization.

Extracts taken from information provided by:

Mr. Fred L. Ramey, Jr., Assistant City Manager
City of Norton, Virginia

CHRISTOPHER GIST HIGH SCHOOL



Pound, Virginia

CHRISTOPHER GIST HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CLASS OF 1953



- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Janice Hubbard | 12. Marlene Collier | 23. Margaret Stidham |
| 2. June Mullins | 13. Barbara Bowman | 24. Mary A. Countiss |
| 3. Incz Mcade | 14. Betty Bolling | 25. Benetta Baker |
| 4. Joan Meade | 15. Barbara Sutphin | 26. Carson Robinson |
| 5. Wanda Meade | 16. Phyllis Bolling | 27. Paul West |
| 6. Juanita Meade | 17. Loretta Hampton | 28. J. D. Mullins |
| 7. Shelby Jean Selvy | 18. Ada Robinson | 29. Kenneth Stallard |
| 8. Marie Sheppard | 19. Ethel Carter | 30. Robert Mullins |
| 9. Johnnie Ruth Adams | 20. Ozella Killen | 31. James L. Countiss |
| 10. Frances Carter | 21. Wilma Riddle | 32. Bob Varner |
| 11. Almeda Stidham | 22. Rita Sturgill | 33. Ron Cox |



CHRISTOPHER GIST HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1953

CLASS OFFICERS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES

President

Ronnie Lee Cox

Vice Presidents

James Countiss

Ada Sue Robinson

Secretary-Treasurer

Ozella Killen

Valedictorian

Phyllis Bolling

Salutatorian

James Countiss

Most likely to succeed

Ada Sue Robinson

King

Bob Varner

Queen

Barbara Sutphin

Sponsor

Trula Qualls

A decorative border of black graduation caps with yellow tassels surrounds the central text. The caps are arranged in a rectangular frame, with one cap at each intersection of the top, bottom, left, and right sides.

STUDENT

PHOTOGRAPHS

AND

AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

RITA STURGILL ADDINGTON

“Life After Christopher Gist High School”

The year was 1953 – many things were going to happen for me that year – some were planned – some were not. Graduating from C.G.H.S. in May 1953 was right on schedule, however, prior to that, in February, my father had a major stroke that left him paralyzed on one side. He was unable to enjoy seeing his daughter graduate from high school and he would have been so proud (it wasn't easy keeping me there). I didn't have a great deal of interest in whether I did or didn't graduate!

In the meantime, I thought I had fallen in love with Christopher Bobby Addington (nicknamed Brook), a 1951 C.G.H.S. graduate. He had joined the United States Air Force in 1952 and the uniform was strictly “class” to me. One month after graduation, I went to work for Kenneth P. Asbury, who had just completed his requirements to become an attorney and began his practice in Wise, Virginia. Wow, I thought, I am his secretary...this is big time! I excelled in two subjects in school, typing and shorthand. Mr. Asbury considers me the best so I am hired. However, I spent several nights at home trying to read my shorthand to transcribe the next day – a few tears and lots of frustration. But, I finally learned enough legal jargon to be able to feel more comfortable in a courtroom with my steno pad and know that I would be okay.

In October of 1953, while Chris was on leave due to the illness of his mother, we decided to get married – I am not of legal age – therefore, my mother has to accompany us to the courthouse in Clintwood, Virginia to say our “I dos”. Chris goes back to Houston, Texas after a couple of weeks and I continue my job at the law office. In the spring of 1954, I decide to venture off to Texas, from Abingdon via train and lived there until the four years of Air Force duty was finished in 1956. I worked for a law firm while there. We moved to Birmingham, Alabama in 1957 and I continued my legal profession with a law firm. Chris worked for Hayes Aircraft during our stay in Birmingham.

Then, we moved to Cocoa, Florida in 1959 where Chris worked for T.W.A. (Trans World Airlines) at Cape Canaveral – quite an interesting move, as the space industry became the growing attraction for newcomers from several

different states. The town of Cocoa was such a small town that I knew everyone up and down the streets, the different businesses such as Ladies Boutique Shops, the Banks, Merrill Lynch (watched the market on the screen as if I could buy and sell like the rich guys). And, of course, I worked on Main Street for a law firm for seven years and was offered the position of closing agent for a Real Estate Company – their agent, a retired attorney, had decided to move back to New York. The real estate market was so great that housewives decided to go to real estate school and become salesmen (now salespersons). Property values were tripling and more and more vacant property was becoming both commercial and residential. I decided to get on the bandwagon and went to Orland School of Real Estate and obtained my real estate license so I could sell, as well as do my other job. Every spare moment was spent obtaining listings or showing homes to prospective buyers. I always liked another house better than the one I lived in – at one time, I owned three houses and we moved seven times during our stay in Florida. All of our friends and neighbors were from the North, but we were still in contact with some of them.

When I moved to Florida, I had two children, ages one and three. (No more children!) I did not have time to fit that into my busy schedule. Thank goodness for the “black nanny” who was a great cook and housekeeper, as well as a great caretaker of the children. As time went along, there were opportunities of free airline passes, which enabled us to visit Pound, Virginia frequently. When the children were old enough, they were able to fly by themselves up north, with nametags on them and escorted to their seats by the airline. Thus, they were able to spend long visits with relatives in Pound, Virginia.

In the year 1969, a transfer was happening for Chris, meaning he would be transferred to Kansas City, Missouri with T.W.A. We didn't want to leave Florida, nor did the children, Florida was considered “home”. We loved to watch the space launches at Cape Canaveral from the beach – and the name of every astronaut was very familiar in our home. We often dined at a restaurant named Ramon's, near the Cape, where all the astronauts are when they were in town. Their pictures were displayed on all walls of the restaurant. So, now we have a big decision to make. Do we move to Missouri? About that time came a phone call from my brother-in-law, encouraging us to move to Pound because of the elevation in the coal industry and prices. A chance to be near relatives helped with the choice. The children had decided that they were ready to see snow and chilly

weather instead of swimming pools and beaches. A vote was taken at the dining room table and I lost.

So, off we go to Pound, Virginia, where we have been since Florida. It proved to be a very good move in many ways. I had decided to stay home and be a typical wife and mom. However, a few months later I agreed to work part-time at Peoples Bank of Pound, then I became full-time. A few years later, after being promoted to the Loan Department, I was asked by the Board of Directors to "head up" a Branch Bank in Wise, Virginia. It was located in a doublewide trailer on land they had acquired from a coal owner who had mined the property. It was now going to be sold for commercial purposes. What a challenge! It took one year to complete the bank building and my only neighbor then was Wendy's Hamburgers. I moved into the new bank building and hired additional staff. By now, we were getting a shopping center. First came Ridgeview Shopping Center and then Wise County Plaza. I'm seeing growth in a place that was once completely isolated. All of this is visible to you as you travel from Norton to Pound on US 23.

In 1986, Peoples Bank was sold out to First Virginia Bank and much schooling, traveling and adjustments were taking place. In the year 1995, after being promoted along the way to Senior Vice-President and Zone Manager of First Virginia Bank (two branches in Pound, one in Clintwood and the Wise office) I decided to retire. Chris and I are both retired now and have a lake "get-away" at South Holston Lake in Bristol, VA/TN. We enjoy the grandchildren when they visit or when we are with them. My son now lives in Greensboro, North Carolina, after living fourteen years in Albany, New York. My daughter lives in Bristol, Virginia. They both have very interesting and challenging careers in the computer industry. Mom chose not to have a computer in her house! (Shhhhhhh). End of story.

ETHEL CARTER BAKER



Ethel and Mr. Morris
1953



Ethel and Earl
1993

ETHEL CARTER BAKER

In the fall of 1953, Fran and I entered Hiwassee College in Madisonville, Tennessee. After two challenging and enjoyable years, we graduated in the spring of 1955 with an Associate of Arts degree.

Upon graduation, I returned to Pound and in the fall of 1955 began my teaching career at Hillman School on Indian Creek.

In the summer of 1956, upon the urging of my Hiwassee friends, I returned to college at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee. There I met William Earl Baker, my swimming teacher, who became my husband on January 15, 1957.

In the spring of 1957, Earl entered the military. After finishing my course work and graduating in the summer of 1957 with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education, I joined Earl in Augusta, Georgia. While in Georgia, I taught second grade at Maple Street Elementary School.

After Earl completed his tour of duty in 1959, we returned to Pound to teach school. Earl was hired to teach biology and chemistry at Pound High School and I was hired to teach seventh grade English at Pound Elementary. In 1962, the sixth and seventh grades were moved up to the annex building behind the high school. I continued teaching there until 1966 when I moved to the high school as the Title I teacher.

In 1970, Mr. Buddy Barker asked Earl to be his assistant principal. Naturally, he was delighted to accept this position.

Earl and I were blessed in 1971 when we were able to adopt a beautiful baby boy, William Christopher. This was a very happy and exciting time for us.

In 1974, Earl was hired as principal of Pound High School where he remained until he retired in 1989.

In the summer of 1973, I entered the guidance program at the University of Virginia-Charlottesville. I received my Masters of Education degree in guidance in the summer of 1975. That fall I became a full-time Guidance Counselor at Pound High School and continued working there until my retirement in 1996.

Upon retirement, I was thrilled to be able to help care for our granddaughter Holly while her parents attended college and worked. Holly has been a joy to care for – she truly is our pride and joy!

In 1981, I lost my mother and in 1984 my father. This was especially difficult for me because I either saw them or talked on the telephone to one or the other of them every day.

I truly was sustained by God's grace during this painful time.

Chris married Caroline Lassovszky from McLean, Virginia, in 1994. Caroline graduated from Clinch Valley College in 2000 with a degree in art, and Chris is a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer. They are presently living in Gray, Tennessee, where Chris works as a High Speed Data Technician and Caroline works for Sprint in the display ad department. We are proud of their accomplishments and love them very much.

My sister Lucille lives in Coeburn, Virginia, and I see her frequently. She was a Guidance counselor for Coeburn High School until her retirement in 1996. She remains very active in family and community activities.

I am an active member of Pound United Methodist Church where I have held various offices. We have just recently remodeled the sanctuary with a memorial gift from the estate of Virginia Robinson, a former Pound teacher, who was killed by a hit and run driver as she was returning from the bank where she had gone to send a donation to the church. She had continued to support the Methodist Church even though she had been away from the area for many years.

I am also a member of Pound United Methodist Women and am presently serving as the secretary. I especially enjoy hosting the ladies for our Christmas dinner and helping with the Victorian Tea during Pound Heritage Days.

I am a member of Alpha Psi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International where I have served as treasurer since 1983.

My hobbies include spending time with my family, especially Holly, camping, reading, crafts, and baking. I enjoy helping with the "meals program" for the sick and shut-ins.

God has been good to us and I am ever grateful for His mercy.

JUANITA MEADE BANKS



Juanita
1953



Juanita and Herb
2001

JUANITA MEADE BANKS

After graduation in 1953, I headed for Roanoke, VA where I obtained employment with Yale Lock Co. I worked there for two years. During this time, while returning to Roanoke from a visit home, I met my future husband, Herb, on a greyhound bus.

We married September 2, 1955. After a short honeymoon in Gatlinburg, TN, we moved to Richmond, KY where my husband enrolled in the teaching program at Eastern Kentucky University, and I worked as a secretary in the dean's office. In 1958, I obtained my first degree – PHT (Putting Husband Through).

After graduation, we moved to McRoberts, KY. My husband taught in the Jenkins Independent School System, and I became a housewife and mom.

We have two children. A daughter, Carolyn, is now 43. She is a doctor, specializing in arthritis, living and practicing in Louisville. Her husband, John, is a kidney specialist. They have no children, but within the week, they are leaving for the Ukraine where they hope to adopt two children. Needless to say, we are very excited.

Our son, Paul, who has just turned the big 40, is married and employed in management by Al-Can Aluminum Co. in Berea, KY. His wife, Gretchen, is working on her master's degree and teaching children with special needs. They have one daughter, Hayleigh, age 8 who is the joy of our life.

When our children became school age, I became restless staying home. I started substitute teaching but I felt a need to do something more. I enrolled at the University of VA at Wise where in 1975 at age 41, I graduated with a degree in elementary education. I taught 21 years in the Jenkins School System. During that time I also obtained two more degrees – a Master's Degree and a Rank I. I have been PTO president, served on many local and state committees to improve education. Taught all grades, coached the

academic team for ten years, and was the principal of an elementary school for three years before retiring in 1997.

In addition to all the above, I have been a pastor's wife for the past 29 years. We have just retired from our church positions, and are looking forward to some relaxation and spending more time with our children and grandchildren.

FRANCES CARTER BORING



Frances
1953



Frances and Don
2002

FRANCES CARTER BORING

After high school, Ethel and I attended Hiwassee College during 1954-1955.

I met Don Boring at Hiwassee. We started dating. At that time, his sister, Glennis was my roommate. Don played football for Hiwassee.

After Hiwassee, I got a job at Haysi, Virginia as a home economic teacher, 1955-1956.

December 26, 1955 Don and I got married. After finishing the school year at Haysi, Don and I started housekeeping in Maryville, Tennessee, his hometown. I have always loved living here. However, I did miss my family, but I visited them often in the early years. Don was working for the Alcoa Aluminum Company when we first got married, but quit his job to become a policeman for Maryville.

1956-1957, I taught second and third grade at Rocky Branch School.

On May 10, 1957, I gave birth to the most beautiful set of twins in the world a boy and a girl. We named them Terry and Sherry. We loved them. They made life very interesting and kept us very busy.

After they were born, I became a substitute teacher in Blount County.

Early in our marriage, Don and I confessed our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and repented of our sins. In obedience to God, we were baptized. My faith in God has grown over the years.

I love to read the Bible and study His word. The Bible is the most interesting book I have ever read.

July 30, 1966, I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. We named her Karen. The twins loved her. She was such a delight to us. We adored our children.

June 11, 1981, my mother passed away. Three years later my daddy passed away. I know that most of you, if not all of you, have experienced this. This is a sad period in life.

My children loved their grandparents on both sides of the family. I enjoyed being around my mother-in-law. She had a nice personality.

At the age of 40, I wanted a full-time job. I found a job as a nursing assistant at Blount Memorial Hospital here in Maryville. This was a great job for me. I loved caring for the sick. It was a rewarding job. Later, I worked in the lab drawing blood.

After 10 years, working at the hospital, I went to work at the Knoxville Airport as a security guard. This job was quite interesting also.

Lots of important and well-known people came through the airport. Dolly Parton came through often because of Dollywood. She was always friendly and took time to speak to us. I thought she was much prettier in person than on television. I also enjoyed having the Lady Vols come through security as well as their coach, Pat Summit. Brooks Shields came through once as well as others that I won't take any more time to mention.

Don went to Walter State College at night and received a degree in Law Enforcement. He also took a three-month course in law enforcement at the FBI Academy in Washington, D. C. He took several courses as well at Quantico, Virginia. Later, in Louisville, Kentucky he continued once again his studies in law enforcement.

By this time, the police job had worked out well for Don. He did remarkably well. Don worked through each position until, in 1980, he got the top position as Chief of Police in Maryville.

This was a fun job as far as my part. I got to participate in lots of parties and business trips that Don went to. Lots of these trips were in Nashville, Memphis, Orlando and Tampa, Florida, Greensborough, N. C., Quantico, Virginia and other places as well as here in Maryville.

All three of our children attended College. Sherry and Karen attended the University of Tennessee. Sherry took a Business course at U. T. and Karen got a Bachelors Degree in nursing. Terry went to Draughns Business College. He graduated with a degree in Business.

All three married well and we have the utmost respect for each of them. Sherry and Chuck have two girls, ages 19 and 21. They are presently

attending the University of Tennessee. Melissa will be a sophomore and Olivia will be a senior this coming fall. Terry and Lori live in Florida. They have one daughter, Ryann age 13. She is attending a private Christian school. Karen and Randy have a daughter age 13 and a son age 9. Their names are Chelsea and Chad. I have kept Chelsea and Chad while Karen works since their birth. Don and I have enjoyed keeping them. Each of our five grandchildren has been a great joy to us. I am blessed to have a close knitted Christian family. We enjoy doing things together often throughout the year.

For the last 13 years, we have been taking a family vacation with our children and grandchildren. This is the highlight of our summer. Don and I like to go to Hilton Head in February. We have been doing this for the last five years.

Don retired from his job four years ago, but last September he agreed to go back as an interim until they could find a replacement. They haven't found one as of yet.

For the last fifteen years, I have been a homemaker. I'm enjoying church, Sunday school, Mission Group and Bible Study Classes. We recently joined the "Young Again" group at our church. We have found this group to be a lot of fun. We take trips together, and monthly we get together for a meal where there is usually a guest speaker or other entertainment.

I close for now with anticipation of our reunion and look forward to meeting with each of you again.

May God bless all of you,

Frances Carter Boring

MARY ANN CARDEN-SHARP



Mary Ann
1953



Mary Ann and Bob
2000

MARY ANN (COUNTISS) CARDEN-SHARP

I was born in Pound, Virginia to the late Eugene and Oma Stallard Countiss in October, 1934. Since my graduation from Christopher Gist High School, I have traveled throughout the world, both as the wife of a career Navy man and as the wife of a man who was born, raised and educated in China. My first husband, Robert C. Carden, died in April 1998 and I married Robert T. Sharp in October 1999.

I returned to Pound and the mountains of Southwest Virginia in October 1994 and lived with my parents until they both passed away in January and March of 1995. My brother, Quillie Countiss, and I stayed at our late parents' home in the Dewey section of Pound until March 1995, at which time we sold the home place. I returned to my home in Prince George (a bedroom community southeast of Richmond, VA) and took care of my late husband until his death.

I retired as a GS-12 from the US Army Logistics Management College at Fort Lee, VA in October 1990. My last job was coordinating student activities in the Information Center. The Lord knows what is best for His children. He certainly knew what was best for me! Shortly after retiring, my son had his third episode of atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) and required a kidney transplant. Then my daughter was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). I went back to Pound in 1994 and took care of my parents until their deaths in 1995. When I returned to Prince George, I discovered my late husband was terminal and I took care of him until he passed. Recently, my oldest daughter was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis. Out of the four children that I bore, I have only one healthy child - a son.

My children, all four of them, are successful and are truly blessings and gifts from God. They are all married and have children. Diane, the one with Arthritis, just graduated with a Masters of Business Administration. She works for the Commonwealth of Virginia as a Data Base Manager and is the mother of a 12-year old child, Joseph, who was adopted from Romania. Her husband is a Farm Extension Agent at Virginia State University. He graduated from Berea College and received a Masters from Virginia Tech. Andy works with farmers from Southwest Virginia and travels to that area

quite often. He is the nephew of Earl Hamner, author of the popular TV series, *The Waltons*. You may know him, Andy Hankins.

Debra, my second child, and the one with MS is disabled and has been a stay-home mom for a number of years. Debra attended Radford University. She is the mother of two of my grandchildren (both are intellectually gifted). My granddaughter, Rachael, is a student at Mary Washington College and a graduate of the Governor's School in Richmond, VA. Rachael will travel to Romania this summer as part of a team from the Ecumenical Campus Christian Ministry where they plan on digging wells, help build a youth church, and work in an orphanage with Downs Syndrome children. Rachael will undoubtedly come back a changed person. My grandson, Phillip, is a sophomore in high school, a straight A student and also is quite the athlete. Rachael is 6' tall; Phillip is 6'3" (at fifteen years old!); and big Phil (Debra's husband) is 6'7" tall. It's like a redwood forest moving in when they all get together! Phil is a software engineer for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Robert, the healthy one, is a Phillip Morris employee. He served in the Navy and graduated from a local community college with an associate degree in electronic engineering technology. His wife, Pamela, is a stay-home mom. Pamela's 89 year old mother lives with them. Robert has three sons – one adult son, a teenager and a middle school fellow. Robby is in Radford, VA. Will is an eighth grader in Prince George and Coleman, the youngest, is a student at St. Joseph's School in Petersburg, VA.

Roger, my youngest and the kidney transplant person, works every day for the Social Security Administration as a Claims Agent. He is married and a graduate of the community college system. He suffered total kidney failure as a result of HUS. He fathered two children after the transplant, went back to college, and graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University as an accounting major. His wife, Meg, is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire and works in industrial property management. My grandson, Clint, recently was a patient in a local ICU with atypical HUS. Clint has made medical history in that he is the only known surviving child of a HUS father. We have organized a foundation nationwide that funds research for HUS. Meg and Roger just attended a meeting at the National Institute of Health in Washington, D.C. We are trying to raise money for additional clinical research. Clint is fine now and is back in pre-K, just being a normal 4-1/2 year old. Jack is the oldest child (six years old), and he is a kindergarten student. His future, we do not know.

It seems almost as if I was created to take care of sick people. When my late husband died, I asked the Lord "What will You have me do now?" since I had taken care of so many sick folks since I retired from my chosen career. I certainly missed my calling – I should have been a nurse!

My current husband, Robert T. Sharp, is also the father of four children, two boys (one deceased) and two girls. Between us, we have seven living children, 21 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Needless to say, birthdays at our house are like a zoo – and without a calendar, we would never keep up with birthdays! Even then, in our senior moments, we sometimes become confused! Counting marriage years to our previous spouses, we have a total of 90 years of marriage experience, not counting the almost four years we have been married! That's a lot of years!

Bob and I found a lot of things we had in common when we first met. And believe it or not, we met through a dating service! Bob had prayed for a short Catholic wife and God had a sense of humor. He sent him a tall Presbyterian – ME! We both had four children, two boys and two girls. We both lived in the Orient. He lived in China for 22 years and I in Japan for five years. He was a Hospice volunteer, trained in Richmond, VA. I was a Hospice volunteer, trained in Petersburg, VA. We both now do volunteer work for Hospice together was a team. The first time I was assigned a Hospice patient, I asked myself, "Can I really do this?" I did it and received much more from the experience than I ever gave.

Rob took care of his late wife for many years, and I cared for several ill persons, including my late husband. I don't barber but Bob does. He cuts Hospice patients hair and volunteers as a barber at a senior assisted living home in Richmond, VA. We keep a very busy schedule. Between our Hospice work, our church work, our Soup Kitchen detail, and our families, we find time for ourselves. We travel.

We went on a honeymoon trip and cruised the Mediterranean Sea. We spent most of our time in Italy. We also visited southern France, Sicily, and Spain. On our next trip, we toured the Scandinavian countries. We spent three days in Copenhagen, Denmark. The surprising thing in Copenhagen was the number of bicycles and the number of thin people. Old people as well as young people all seemed to pedal bicycles. Many of them had youngsters in tow in a cart attached to the back of their bicycle. From

Denmark, we went to Oslo, Norway, to Scotland, to the Farrow Islands and the Shetland Islands, to Iceland and Greenland, and then to Newfoundland. In Scotland, we saw the Loch Ness monster. It was a little red and white boat-like thing that put-putted up the deep lake! Scotland reminded me a lot of Southwest Virginia. It was in the late summer and everything was so lush and green. The mountains and hills looked almost like those found in Wise County.

The next trip we took started with us flying to Aruba to board a cruise ship that took us to Costa Rica, through the Panama Canal and up the western coast of Mexico. We stopped in several Mexican towns and in Los Angeles. We cruised to Vancouver, Canada where we disembarked. We flew through Toronto, Canada to New York City. We were in New York city two days before 9/11 and looked up to admire the twin towers. We arrived in the Port Authority building in downtown New York City where we cleared customs. It is so sad the Twin Towers are no more and that we are in a war in Iraq.

In June and July of last year we flew to Budapest, Hungary where we boarded a riverboat that took us up the three main rivers of Europe. In addition to Hungary, we visited Slovakia, Austria, Germany and Holland. Of all the countries, Germany was my favorite. We saw so many old castles and churches. We flew from Amsterdam, Holland to New York City and then to Richmond, VA.

In November of last year, we flew to Lisbon, Portugal and cruised to the Maderia Islands off the coast of Africa. We next stopped in Nassau in the Bahamas and ended up in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

We recently flew to Houston, TX for three days and then to Phoenix, AZ for another few days. This allowed us a chance to visit the NASA Space Center in Houston and gave Bob an opportunity to visit his daughter-in-law and grandson. We flew from Houston to Phoenix to visit Bob's brother in Scottsdale and his sister in Phoenix. While we were in AZ, we rented a car and visited with my cousins Earl and Sonny Beverly in Mesa, AZ. Mesa is only about 20 miles from Phoenix. Earl and Sonny are from Clintwood and winter in AZ and return to Dickenson County for the remainder of the year. It was good to see them and good to see someone from back home.

We planned on spending 22 days in China this April. The trip was cancelled for medical reasons. Bob was involved in a very serious car accident that

totaled our car. We were on Hospice duty when Bob dropped me off at our Hospice patient's home while he went to get a birthday cake and birthday card. He traveled just a block or so and was broadsided by a Petersburg, VA police car. Yes, he was injured quite badly and spent eight days in the hospital. He's home now and is recovering from his injuries.

We plan on a trip to Alaska this August. Heaven forbid – no more car accidents that would require us to cancel our trip! Anyhow, God is so very good to us. He allows us to travel, gives us good health, and blesses us everyday! We are so very thankful!

I am on the Board of Directors for an ocean front condo unit at Kill Devil Hills, the Outer Banks of North Carolina. This position gives me a voice and a little control of what occurs. My daughters love to go there and it is a place that is so peaceful and serene. We call it "the girls time-out place." We only stay at our condo during the off-season or when I go down for a business trip. The rest of the year we rent to tourists who visit the Outer Banks.

It is hard for me to believe that 50 years have passed since our high school graduation. That means one biggy. We are getting up there in years! I look forward to seeing all of my old classmates. I know it will be joyful to rehash old times. The years have been good for me. I truly am a very fortunate person. See you all at the end of May!