



Bill and Frances have been members of Holy Saviour since moving to Waterloo in 1980. Now both 84, they are inspiring models of lives well lived, cultivated with deep church roots. Recently I had the pleasure of visiting with them in their lovely home on Waterloo's west side.

They met in August of 1950 at a dance hall in Grand Bend, near where Bill was training to be an Air Force pilot. Frances recalls watching the Pleiades meteor shower from atop a sand dune on that first date. Bill was studying mechanical engineering at Queen's and getting his RCAF wings during the summers. Raised on an Ottawa Valley

farm, he came from a family of eight children, all of whom got to university. Frances who was 20 when they met had lost both her parents at age 14, and was raising her younger brother. On their third date, Bill asked her to marry him. His first job after graduation was in Brockville, and Frances' brother was part of their household. They went on to have three children, a son and two daughters. Bill's career with Dupont Chemicals took him eventually to Montreal. But this was the period of FLQ unrest and when a job offer came up in Waterloo, they jumped at the chance to return to SW Ontario, closer to Frances' roots.

Bill's career has made him a 'turnaround' specialist of engineering firms, and as his own boss, a skilled negotiator. In fact, he is still working as a consultant evaluating designs for vehicle assembly lines, among other projects. His engineer's seal, uniquely accompanied by a safe load rating, has never been challenged by a structural failure; he insists on extra steel in the specifications to overbuild. He makes the same commitment to durability with his own projects: a family cottage and a basement rec room "that took 54 sheets of drywall".

Bill was a warden at Holy Saviour during Gerald Churchill's tenure and, after Churchill died in 1987, the transition to Dennis Hayden. He's most proud of heading the fundraising for a new organ. The choir had proposed an electronic organ but had managed to raise just \$30,000 towards it. The campaign went on to raise \$184,000 for the Casavant Frères pipe organ we still enjoy. Of course, Bill was able to negotiate a better price with the Quebec company, which wished to expand into Ontario churches. He spent 25 years as head of the property chair after being warden. Highlights include installing the metal roof and working with Mutual Life (now Sunlife) to pave the parking lot. The funds from the latter are a financial legacy that Bill is justly proud of; his hardnosed negotiating has produced a hearty cash flow. Bill received the Bishop's Award of Excellence about eight years ago.

Bill and Frances are also pleased with their three children, and the continuity of the William name. Their new great grandson is William the eighth! His dad, named William of course, is also an engineer and a VP at Manulife Investments. He has brokered multi-million dollar projects, several of which are on native lands. He so impressed the natives on one northern Ontario hydro project, that they named a new school after him. Bill and Frances' two daughters are Marjorie, a geologist who lives near Washington, DC, and Barbara, a film actor living in Newmarket.



As an orphan, Frances was expected to start work at age 16 but she took part-time courses to finish her high school. Besides being a homemaker, she worked with autistic children in Montreal and studied library technology. In KW she catalogued the library at the Art Gallery and at the School of Optometry. She has coped with two bouts of cancer. Frances has personally repaired hundreds of hymn and prayer books at our church. As I was leaving, Bill pointed out two stone carvings he's done and the painting Frances did of the woods near their cottage (see photos). I came away

inspired by their vitality and faith.