

DOUBLE PORTION MINISTRY

By Terrie Jo Wold, Lifelong Learning Committee

Have you ever had a memorable young person in your life who was not family? How did you first connect? Did you go to their school or church activities? What did the young person teach you? These Spirit-led relationships can be mutually beneficial and create meaning that lasts a lifetime.

Shelby Holman was one such person in my life at Bethesda. We first connected after a Lenten service when she was in the 6th grade. Shelby had been listening to Mary Rice's daughters sing the leader part for the Holden Evening Prayer services, and felt inspired to give it a try.

I offered to teach her the music, and we had so much fun together. When it came time to pick a date, she was too nervous to sing alone. I offered to sing it with her, and we continued singing together over the following years with great delight.

As I got to know Shelby, I discovered her love of volleyball, orchestra, choir and the high academic standards she held for herself. I started going to her games and concerts and we even had occasional lunch dates where we shared stories, listened and encouraged each other.

When Shelby started confirmation, I was honored when she asked me to be her mentor. I felt it was a natural evolution from our unique Spirit-led relationship. Shelby did become an extended family member in my life and I was grateful to be welcomed into hers. I will treasure this gift forever.

A SHARED SPIRIT ACROSS GENERATIONS

This fall, Bethesda's lifelong learning committee will be offering an opportunity to grow these kinds of relationships through a new program!

PLEASE LET ME INHERIT A DOUBLE PORTION OF YOUR SPIRIT.

2 KINGS 2:9

Double Portion Ministry is:

- inspired by a story in the second book of Kings. As a prophet named Elijah was nearing the end of his ministry, his mentee Elisha asks to be passed on a double portion of God's Spirit before Elijah rises to heaven.
- a Spirit-led, cross-generational mentoring and prayer ministry that brings all ages together. It calls people to walk alongside each other in



Terrie and Shelby after a volleyball game

faith, friendship, and shared purpose. To reach that purpose, the older and younger partners do intentional sharing with each other, praying for one other and sharing of life together in creative ways. Together, everyone becomes both learners and teachers, companions and co-creators of a Spirit-filled church.

WHAT THE LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE WILL PROVIDE

Mentoring Pairs or Triads: Participants will be matched by mixing partners that are 20-50 years apart in age for optimal relationship building that is grounded in prayer, listening, and life-sharing.

Shared Prayer Rhythms: Monthly prayer prompts and intercession ideas appropriate for each age group will be provided.

Faith Story Gatherings: Occasional events will occur where matched partner faith stories, music, and meals could be shared to inspire each other, bind us together, and bless our Bethesda community as a whole

Milestone Blessings: We will encourage partners to do "rituals of blessing" for life transitions like first communion, confirmation, graduation, entering retirement, the birth of a child or grandchild, moving into a new home, etc.

We hope that God's Spirit will call many of you into Bethesda's new **Double Portion Ministry**. Recognizing the sacredness of intergenerational connection, we see that the Spirit is not diluted by time, but multiplied through love.

As we pray together, grow together, and share our stories, we trust in God to give each generation a **double portion—not just of the past, but of what's still possible.**

Sign up in the church office!