



Constance Newsom

Long-time church member and deacon Constance (Connie) Newsom, who turned 80 this year, always refers to herself as a "people person". And she has certainly shown that through the years. There is almost no one who has come through the doors whom she has not gotten to know and befriend and with whom she has not worked tirelessly in her many endeavors. Say "hello" once or twice to Connie and, the first thing you know, you will be helping to greet and usher, cook a meal in the kitchen, polish pews as part of clean-up days, bake and help prepare for UniFair, and on and on.

Another word Connie uses often is "devotion." In her case and that of her husband, Bob, it can mean anything and everything that will help the congregation and the church buildings themselves. Their leadership on financial oversight and planning has been exemplary and both have been President of the Board, twice in Connie's case. They have pledged generously and contributed to the myriad of special funds that always need more money.

A highlight of Connie's service to the church and congregation was leadership in raising capital funds and overseeing the critical job of restoration of the exterior of the Sanctuary, which included the high towers on the front. She worked with our architects, the Landmarks Conservancy and the Landmarks Commission. First U. received plaudits from one and all when the scaffolding was removed, and the newly repaired and restored building emerged. She was told that she was "enshrined" at the Commission's office for her work to protect our historic building.

Connie has been an active member and strong supporter of the Women's Leadership Alliance for many years. She is a Bronx girl, who went to Hunter College High School and Hunter College, before attending Tulane University on a National Defense Scholarship. Who was there on scholarship as well? Bob from Texas, of course, and they will have been married 57 years this June with a son and a daughter living in Brooklyn, as well as 5 grandchildren. Even though they live now in Warwick, NY on their small farm, they remain loyal to the church and come down often.