

Fredericka “Freddy” Holden

January 25, 1927 – January 5, 2020

Written by Pat Fromberger from November 2013 LITS



Freddy will be remembered at St. Luke's for her cheerful personality, quirky sense of humor and her love for chatting with others after the services. She and her younger sister, Janice, faithfully attended St. Luke's Church for over 60 years (Freddy 62 years & Janice 69 years) and were affectionately referred to as "The Fair Sisters" by Bonnie Watters. (Bonnie wrote a profile about the two sisters in February 2003 LITS.) The sisters remained the best of friends throughout their lives and were often mistaken for "twins" as they were growing up—despite a 10-year separation in age.

Freddy, the daughter of Frederick and Hazel (Austin) Fair, was born in Bellows Falls in 1927 and moved to Springfield at age two. She spent many happy hours in the company of her great Aunt Minnie, who raised the girls' mother when grandparents died rather young. Aunt Minnie was like a grandmother. From the one-room school (where her mother and later her sister attended grade school) in West Springfield, Freddy went to Springfield High School. In February of her senior year she began work at Fellows Corporation as a stenographer and secretary for the Purchasing Department. She enjoyed 27 years of employment at Fellows. Freddy met her husband Ray through his future sister-in-law and they married on June 4, 1949 after a two and-a-half-year courtship. The couple lived in Chester for five years before moving to Pleasant Valley Road in Springfield where they resided for the remainder of their lives. Sadly, Ray predeceased Freddy in November 2014 after 65 years of marriage.

Freddy, a long-time Episcopalian, became involved at St. Luke's in 1958. She loved sharing her sister Jannie's stories of the Young Peoples Fellowship that met Sunday afternoons. Mary and Buster Henry would pick everyone up at their homes, take them to church and then pick them all up again Sunday afternoon to attend the meeting and then go sliding

or skating. On a rotation basis they would have Bible study at Bellows Falls, Brattleboro, Woodstock and Windsor followed by fellowship. When the Rev. Andrew G. Osmun arrived as a new young priest at St. Luke's in 1980, Freddy was a great help and support to him. Andrew writes: *"When I arrived at St Luke's Freddie Holden typed the stencils for the bulletins and newsletters and I would drive over, get them, bring them to the office next to the Rectory kitchen, run them and fold them week by week for church. We saw a lot of each other. She was so patient with a young impatient priest. Thank you, Freddy, for all your years of service to the Lord and the St Luke's family of faith."*

Freddy (and Janice) shared a serious love for animals— birds, dogs, cats, and served as committed and compassionate volunteers for the Springfield Area Humane Society for numerous years. She enjoyed writing letters and working outside, especially mowing her lawn. All of us at St. Luke's will miss this special lady and feel so grateful to have known and loved her over the years. I can just picture her now up in heaven having one of her friendly chats with God.

[Back to the Home Page](#)