



# Bellevue Church Newsletter

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## Getting to Know You: Alice Crooker

By Alice Crooker &  
Dave Crooker



I was born Alice Shumate in Kirkland – I mean downtown Kirkland in the old hospital where the Heathman Hotel now stands. My parents lived in a modest, but neat and comfortable home in what is now called the Everest Neighborhood. But my parents were pioneers and “City” living was not for them. My Dad had inherited 160 acres on the side of Rattlesnake Mountain near North Bend. Mom and I had barely come home from the hospital, when Dad decided it was time to move. He was going to build a house and moved our family to a garage on the property with neither running water nor electricity. This spartan existence proved too much for Mom, just recovering from childbirth. She developed a severe case of Postpartum Depression and had to be hospitalized. As a result, my two-year old brother and I were cared for by three aunts and uncles on a rotating basis for about two years. At one point, I spent a couple of weeks with the parents of my future husband, Dave who claims it was love at first sight and we were married twenty years later.

Mom eventually recovered and had a long teaching career while earning a masters degree from the University of Washington. When I came home, I was somewhat set back by all the changes that had taken place in my young life. I was two years old and did not talk – not a single word. This worried Mom and she would talk to me as she went about her household chores, trying to give me the idea. One day as Mom was working in the kitchen, she asked what I wanted for dinner. To her utter amazement, I opened my mouth and said “pie”. I’ve slowed some in recent years, but most of my life has been accompanied by a torrent of words – and a great desire for pie!

I attended Walla Walla College for two years in the

nursing program. Dave and I were engaged just before he entered military service. My heart was not in my studies, and when Dave found out he was being stationed in the Washington D.C. area, I jumped at the chance to up our wedding date and join him there. It was a wonderful experience. We eventually moved back to this area and started our family. Our children, Dan and Becky are in their mid-late forties and are the pride of our life along with four grandchildren (three boys and a girl) ages three to twenty-one.

Up until last year, we have attended church regularly. We have been leaders in several children’s divisions, and I have served as church board chair, school board chair, home and school chair, deaconess and assistant treasurer. I am currently not able to hold church office, but praise God every day for his love and mercy and love attending Bellevue SDA church with it’s warm and accepting spirit.

If you are in the mood for self-inflicted misery and would like to know more, check out my book “Peas, Pills and Parkinsons” from the church library.

## Wheelchair Lift Updates

By Kayla Mellon

Thanks to the hard work of Dave Crooker, our wheelchair lift is coming along. The lift has been installed and now we are awaiting the installation of the hand rail and a guard to be placed. We are still awaiting the approval from the city, but we are hopeful it will be soon, then we can get an inspection.

Even though we have not been able to meet in person for over a year, this time has been put to good use on our church to make it more accessible to all.

