

OUR STORY—Faye and John Pokrifka

In 2002, Faye Pokrifka's parents needed help in eastern Pennsylvania. Faye and her husband John packed up most of their belongings and moved in to care for them. A nearby YMCA was a wonderful place to relieve stress and strengthen their spirits, minds and bodies for their daily care giving. Faye also taught piano and gave voice lessons to help with finances. Faye's mother died several years later from Alzheimer's disease, and her father died six years later from pneumonia at age 93.

During their time in Pennsylvania, John was diagnosed with stage four non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2007. Through communication updates, especially by emails, many prayed for John, and he eventually went into remission that same year. Even during that time, John exercised at the local Y as often as he could. In 2015, he was stricken with another type of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma which is considered incurable, but mild and controllable. Thankfully, he is doing quite well; living a rather healthy life!

2017 brought John and Faye an opportunity to move to Uniontown, Ohio, to be near their daughter and family. One of the first things they did was to research homes, churches and Ys in the area. One month later, on November first, they moved into their duplex rental home in Uniontown. The Lake Community YMCA was their first choice for a Y. They also started attending The Chapel in Green, where Faye joined the choir. They both started attending meetings that included prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. Faye also joined the Canton Symphony Chorus and loves the music and vocal challenge it gives her.

Finances have been very tight as Faye slowly builds up a base of students. Teaching piano is something she has done for years; at one time having about forty students of different ages.

Faye and John are delighted for the financial assistance they receive at the Y to maintain their membership and keep them in shape. They also both appreciate the Christian atmosphere they often find there.