



January 3, 2018

A LEADER

You wouldn't think that she had ever felt shy when she needed to speak up. As a young person in Gainesville Florida, things had always seemed to naturally come her way - school honors, cheerleading, diving team, swim team, chorus. Then in her senior year, her father took a new position, and she moved to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. None of these extra-curricular activities were available to her there. She felt terrible. But then, encouraged by a loving and wise grandmother, she learned to rise above discouragement, to speak up and to develop leadership skills.

It is hard to think of a member whose leadership has been more valuable to the church than Marbo Hansen's. She served as Senior Deacon and Chair of Prudential (Stewards), Pumpkin Patch, Family Promise, Pastor Parish. Marbo was also a member of Rev. Matt Fitzgerald's Senior Minister Search Committee.

Born Marbo Ann Feehan, she grew up in a Catholic family as the oldest of five children. Her father being in the military service, they moved a lot in her early years. After graduating from the University of Florida, Marbo became an Occupational Therapist, specializing in short term rehabilitation. Years later, in a change of career, she earned an MBA at Simmons College, became a CPA, and was employed by Coopers & Lybrand.

After she stopped working at Coopers, she realized she had a gift for event planning. She started a business that lasted 20 years and as part of it, planned many Hills Church celebrations, where her special gifts lent a characteristic grace and beauty to these events.

For many years, Marbo, her husband David, and their three children lived in a lovely house on Westgate Road. Hers seemed like an ideal life at the time. And then her father, an electrical engineer with a number of "genius" patents who had been President of a Division of ITT, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Her mother suffered from dementia. Honoring their stated wishes to remain in their home in Bethlehem, Marbo remotely managed their 24-hour care for seven years, making monthly trips to Pennsylvania, and once relocating there for a year.

In 2009, her marriage broke up.

Subsequently, Marbo designed and built a home that backs up onto Lake Cochichuate in Wayland.

Marbo's life has many joys including her three children and two grandchildren. Daughter Kimberley is a nurse practitioner, married to an attorney, Joey Polonsky. They have a son, Jordan, age 2, and a daughter Margaret Jane, age six months. The Polonskys live in Charlotte,

North Carolina. Daughter Megan Hansen lives in Toronto and works for the Canadian Pension Boards where she manages energy sector investments. Megan has a committed relationship with Santiago Bueno. Son Scott works as a financial analyst at PTC in Needham.

So, how did Marbo find her way to a life of spiritual inspiration and joy and service in the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church? While in the MBA program at Simmons, she met good friends, Ann Ingram and Judy Swahnberg. Judy invited Marbo to come to church; she came, and the rest is history.

Alas for us, Marbo has purchased a house in Charlotte, and plans to move within a few months to be near her beloved family there. We will indeed miss this warm and thoughtful friend whose able leadership has meant so much to us over so many years. Sigh.

Vaya Con Dios, Marbo.

by *Elizabeth Robertson*