

CR-5 Honoring Lois Tapscott for her service and leadership in a small mission church
in the Blue Ridge Mountains of the Diocese of Virginia.



Lois Tapscott
December 4, 1946 - April 18, 2025

Lois Ann McCarty was the youngest of six children raised in The Church of the Good Shepherd in Pine Grove. Growing up Lois's spiritual life centered around the church. Like most of her family, Lois was baptized, confirmed, and married at Good Shepherd. But it was from her mother, Mattie McCarty, that she learned the importance of setting aside time each day to be with God.

Here is a picture of the congregation from 1962. Lois is sitting in the front pew, second from the right. There were many children in the church when Lois was young. She joined in the choir, youth group, Bible study, and Sunday school. Writing in her neat long hand, Lois was taking various committee minutes by the age of 16. Later, she took on many other roles at the church. She was first elected Senior Warden in the 1980's and then served in that role, almost continuously, for the next 40 years. Over that period, she came to be recognized as the de facto leader of the church. As her peers began to fade away, Lois picked up any task that needed to be done.



Lois served the church and the community as the type of leader who is always available and willing to help. If anyone wanted to come to the church to pray, cry, or celebrate, she was there for them. Many will tell you it was Lois who helped them find a minister when they needed one. It was Lois who mediated congregational squabbles. It was Lois who weathered the strong winds blowing around the greater Episcopal Church.



Lois was also the primary force for Good Shepherd's commitment to FISH of Clarke County. Over the years, this ministry has grown from a simple monthly food drive to also including a monthly fundraiser and distribution of more than 50 boxed lunches. Lois especially enjoyed getting to know and serve the people seeking help from FISH.

No matter who you are or where you come from, anyone who has spent time at Good Shepherd knows that Lois was the heart of the church. We pray that Good Shepherd will remember what Lois has taught us —that the love of Christian community is the strength and blessing of this very special place. As a result of her devotion to our church, this year we have committed to a new mission statement:

Follow Christ. Welcome All. Serve Humbly.

These words beautifully reflect the way Lois lived her life.

Submitted by Judy Hall, senior warden on behalf of The Church of the Good Shepherd, Bluemont