

The Karin S. (Gunn) Gale and Catherine Gunn Fund for Music Advancement

So many of us know and knew Kari Gunn Gale – and loved her!

Kari moved to Cambridge Avenue with her young family in September 1972. She, with her husband, Dr. Scott Gunn (who joined the surgical practice at Addison Gilbert Hospital), and two daughters, joined the Annisquam Village Church right away. Kari and Scott both served on the “Standing Committee” (now known as the Board) for various terms. The whole family would come to participate in the church’s vast activities and opportunities, with a particular love for and focus on the music. Everyone sang in the choir regularly and took part in the Christmas pageant. Back then, Doris Deacon was the organist, and Leah Knowlton directed the choir. Catherine took piano lessons from Leah. Deep and lasting friendships were made with the other families who sang in the choir – the Junckers, the Millers, the Murrays, and on. The Annisquam Village Church was a huge part of family life.

When Kari was serving on the church Board, she volunteered to help stuff envelopes for a fall mailing, and that’s where she had the good fortune to sit across the table from a handsome, deep-blue-eyed recent widower named Jud Gale. Kari and Jud blessedly found late in life love and commitment, thanks to the church! During their 11+ years together, they attended church devotedly (as Jud and his 60 year wife Betsy had also done), and both worked tirelessly for the good of the church. Jud was instrumental to the capital campaign’s success and he was thrilled when Reverend Sue was selected as pastor. He memorably told her “I like you, and I want you to succeed.” And they loved the music!

Catherine, who was confirmed in this church in 1978 by Rev. Gary Ritts, has remained a member and supporter. She returned to regular church services when Judy Brain led us as interim minister, and served on the Board from 2020-2023. Some of her fondest memories are sharing services with Kari and Jud, and especially of standing next to her Mom and singing loudly – most vividly at the Christmas Eve service - the soprano descant in “The First Noel”.

When considering how she might honor and memorialize her mother, Catherine didn’t have far to go. It is with deep gratitude and commitment that she provides a lasting investment here at this beloved church, specifically for the on-going legacy and advancement of the music program. This gift will fund our blossoming and growing Artist in Residence program, as well as such needs as chairs for the choir loft, organ maintenance, etc. This fund’s intention and goal is to last for years, with additional gifts, to enhance and embrace the amazing musical offerings we continue to enjoy as congregants.

May Kari’s many gifts to the church, both in the past and on-going, bring joy to us all!