

# Happy Anniversary!

August 6, 2023



**T**oday, August 1st, marks our first year working with the Sunnyside Road church of Christ in Decatur, Illinois and it has been a wonderful experience. You have welcomed us into the family and it truly feels like home. It really does feel like what Jan calls a “God thing.”

Last June, we pulled into Decatur to tryout. One Friday night we had dinner with the elders and on Saturday the Caschs and Bingamons drove us around this wonderful town. We saw Lake Decatur and had lunch at Coney McKane’s. That night we all ate pizza at Monical’s, told stories, and laughed as we got to know one another. Sunday, I taught a Bible class, preached, and we had a congregational lunch followed by an open forum. (Sunnyside loves to eat and so do I! It was a match made in heaven.) It all went very well, and I met privately with the nominating committee and the elders. Jan and I just became more and more excited about this

congregation. After preaching Sunday night, Jan called a realtor, and we spent Monday looking at houses. That night we bought one and on Tuesday met with the bank to pay for it. I think somewhere along the way we were asked to join the family - but I honestly don’t remember - we were just so sure this was God’s plan for us.

July couldn’t pass fast enough as paperwork flew back and forth for the house and we packed out home. Then the movers drove away and the McKeels formed a caravan. Dixie, John, and Joey the cat drove a van that was packed to

the seams, and Jan and Sadie the dog pulled a trailer of stuff behind. It was so exciting to pull into the driveway. We celebrated our anniversary on the road, pulled into Decatur and met two of our daughter and grandkids at the new house. On Saturday, we were blown away by all of the people we came to help us move in. The support has been overwhelming from the first!

This past year has been a swirl of activities and the next promises more of the same - all painted with smiles. Thank you!

