

## PARISHIONER PROFILE



The Hobson Family has a long history in the Diocese of Virginia as well as at Immanuel. Dick's maternal grandfather was rector of St. Paul's Church in Richmond. His father's father was the senior warden and friend of the rector. May and Archer (Dick's parents) played together since the age of five, married, raised four children, Dick being the youngest, and shared a deep faith throughout their lives.

Dick was born in New Jersey and moved to Goochland County, VA when he was five. He started attending Immanuel as a child of six or seven when his family moved to Alexandria in 1937. Immanuel Church on the Hill had recently been established as the Immanuel Chapel of the Virginia Theological Seminary. Robert Archer and Mary Hartley Hobson were among the earliest members of the parish and quickly became very active at Immanuel. His father served on the vestry and participated in many ministries until his death in 1960. His mother was very involved in parish and diocesan women's organizations. May Hobson remained a member of the parish until her death in 1982 at age 95.

Dick's memories of Immanuel go as far back as Alexander Zabriskie, Dean of the Seminary and Immanuel's first rector. Dick first attended elementary school at Fort Belvoir. When he was nine, his family moved to Alexandria. He finished his elementary education at MacArthur School on Janney's Lane where he was in the first graduating class. He attended George Washington for middle school and one year of high school and then spent three years at Episcopal High School. He received his B.A. cum laude in history from Princeton University. After completing his undergraduate degree, he spent three years in the U.S. Navy. He was stationed out of Norfolk and served on the destroyer, USS J.F. Kennedy.

After finishing military service, he entered Harvard Law School. In 1959, while he was in the Boston area, he met Kathleen (Kay) Stanton of Grosse Ile, MI. Kay had attended the University of Colorado. After receiving a degree in literature, she moved to Boston to work in advertising and book cover design at Houghton Mifflin Publishing. They were married December 10, 1960 at St. James Episcopal Church on Grosse Ile. The first year and a half of their marriage they lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts. They attended and taught Sunday School at Christ Church, Cambridge.

However, Virginia had a strong pull for Dick, and in February of 1962 he and his family returned to Alexandria where they have remained ever since.

When their first child was born a month later, Dick's mother realized that there was no nursery at Immanuel. Determined that there would be no impediment to her son and daughter-in-law attending church, she and Kay, with the help of other volunteers, founded the Immanuel nursery. The Hobsons have two sons, Rich and Lee, and two daughters, Hartley and Kathleen. All were baptized and confirmed at the Seminary Chapel and were married there as well with the exception of Lee who was married in The Church of St. John the Divine in Houston, Texas.

Dick spent a brief year working for a computer firm. In 1963, he joined McGuire Woods, his current firm, and was made a partner in 1966. His main areas of practice were real estate, land use and development, and environmental law. Dick served two terms in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1966-1970.

Dick has been active at Immanuel since his days as a Sunday School student and later as an acolyte. Dick and Kay both taught Sunday School classes when their children were growing up, and together they ran the acolyte program for eight years from the late 1970s until 1988. Dick was elected to the Vestry three times and has served as both Junior and Senior Warden. Dick worked for several years with

the Diocesan Missionary Society to support establishment of new parishes in Virginia. Both Dick and Kay have served on Search Committees for new rectors. Kay has enjoyed singing with the choir for over 25 years.

Dick and Kay were reminiscing about groups and events at Immanuel that are not now active. These include chapters of Episcopal Church Women, the St. Andrew's Society, the Women's Monthly Luncheon Group and the Christmas Bazaar. For years, a big Mardi Gras party was a regular feature on the Immanuel calendar.

The Hobsons have a tradition of spending the first week of August at Shrine Mont with their children. In years past, Dick and Kay urged Fred and Margaret Moring to join them for that first Shrine Mont week. Both had very young babies, including the Moring's children, Rich and Martha. Fred and Dick had actually been at Shrine Mont for retreats with the St. Andrew's Brotherhood so Fred knew well that Shrine Mont was a good deal. When Jim and Nan Hobson moved to Alexandria and joined the church, they too were encouraged to bring their family to the Shrine Mont week. Over the years, college friends, cousins, aunts and uncles, grandmothers and the ever increasing number of babies swelled the group. Eventually, it grew to number seven families of three generations and now a fourth. The generations continue to gather with the number of Shrine Mont attendees now close to 70, ranging in age from 10 months to the 80s.

Dick grew up on Quaker Lane on the same land where he and Kay have lived since 1966, and only steps away from Immanuel and the Seminary Community that have been a focal point for Dick all his life as well as that of his family. Dick and Kay are fortunate that Rich and his children, Trey and Ava, as well as Hartley and Kevin Wensing and their daughter Grace live nearby in Alexandria. Kathleen and Mark and their children Madeline and Anderson live in Chagrin Falls outside of Cleveland, and Lee and Ann and their children, Blake, Kathleen and Henry live in Dallas, both close enough for frequent family gatherings. They all feel a strong tie to Immanuel-Church-

on -the-Hill where so much of their childhood and growing up years were spent and so many of the sacraments of their lives and their family's, from birth to death, have been celebrated.