

## **Lay Coordinator of Pastoral Care Ministries Betsy Binckes Biography**

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Betsy Binckes has been a member of CLUUC for over 20 years, volunteering as an usher and being a member of the Pastoral Visitors. When she retired from Montgomery County Department of Health and Social Services 6 years ago she decided to join the Pastoral Visitors. Along with being part of the Pastoral Visitors she also became involved with Mid County United Ministries (MUM) where she volunteers in the Joseph A Mattingly food pantry and is a member of the board.

After raising her daughters, she returned to school to pursue a Master's degree in Social Work with a specialization in geriatrics. Over the years she has been a social worker in long term care, worked as a case manager and a therapist with Community Psychiatric Clinic working with individuals with developmental disabilities, seniors, and adults, as a social worker/investigator with Adult Protective Services/Social Services to Adults,, a therapist with the Senior Outreach Team, and supervisor for the intake unit for Aging and Disabilities Assessment and Continuing Case Management programs. While working with Aging and Disability Services with Montgomery County Health and Human Services she was a committee member of the Center for Continuous Learning that provided clinical training to the county's clinicians. Before returning to school she volunteered with the Long Term Care Ombudsman's Program where she functioned as an advocate for individuals living in nursing homes.

Over the years working with Aging and Disability Services it became apparent to Betsy that the church communities were and are a vital factor in keeping seniors and persons with disabilities safe in the community. It seemed logical to Betsy that the knowledge and skills obtained while working with the county would transfer nicely over to the Pastoral Visitors. As in her work as a social worker, Betsy finds being a pastoral visitor rewarding and fulfilling.