

PUTTING GOD FIRST

“J-O-Y, J-O-Y, this does surely mean Jesus first, yourself last and others in between.” Mary Alice Lundy tries her best to live up to this little song she learned as a child in Vacation Bible School. Mary Alice was raised in a Christian home and always attended church. Her fond memories of growing up with a wonderful Christian family are too numerous to think of mentioning. But she says a favorite Bible verse of hers says it best. That verse is Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” This definitely describes what her Christian parents practiced in raising her and she has never forgotten it.

Today you will find her in the Dewitt Baptist Church every time it meets unless she is critically ill or providentially hindered in some way. She grew up attending Dewitt Baptist Church where she became a Christian at 13 years of age. She was raised attending church in the old building which was later replaced by the beautiful brick building of today. Since an early age, she has been involved in church work from teaching Sunday School and Bible School to being clerk, treasurer or simply working wherever her services were needed. Her grandfather, on her mother’s side, donated land to build the first church at Dewitt along with land for the Dewitt School. Mary Alice is so very proud of this not because of bragging, but because these two wonderful establishments have provided so many sweet memories and opportunities for her, as well as thousands of others along the way. She says, “Thanks Papaw Carnes. I was never able to see you because you died before I was born, but I will meet you in a better place.”

Mary Alice actually has plenty of reason to be proud. She attended Cumberland and Union



Colleges, where she acquired a degree in education and then furthered her education at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. State Senator Robert Stivers and State Representative Jim Stewart recently presented Mary Alice with certificates from both the Kentucky Senate and the House of Representatives in honor of her accomplishments. Governor Steve Beshear said even more in a letter to her on April 29 in which he wrote, “You have led a remarkable career and have touched the lives of many people in the Commonwealth, having served as an educator, local business owner and a health care system evaluator, among many other notable positions. You are indeed very deserving of this great honor. I personally

thank you for all that you have done to serve Kentucky and its communities through your professional and volunteer work. Congratulations again on this outstanding achievement and best wishes for success in all your future endeavors.”

Most recently, she has been recognized by “Who’s Who Among American Women” for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in her life, community, profession and business. Cambridge “Who’s Who” is a 250,000 member exclusive organization that recognizes and empowers executives, professionals and entrepreneurs throughout the world. Inclusion into this great organization has been considered by most as the single highest mark of achievement.

When asked what she thought about this she simply said, “I would rank it second only to my being a Christian.”

Mary Alice has more than 40 years professional experience and is currently employed by Pre-Paid Legals. She is also the proprietor of Lundy Antiques, owns the building that houses Flat Lick Medical Clinic, and along with her husband E.J., lives on a farm with their horses and many other beloved pets. Mary Alice is a very proud mother and grandmother. Her daughter, Lana, is Knox County’s Public Librarian and her granddaughter, Johna Raye, is currently a senior at Union College in Barbourville.

Mary Alice’s service to the community is not limited just to business and education. She is a longtime member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Younger Woman’s Club, the Tuesday Club, the Knox County Hospital Lady’s Auxiliary, Kentucky Homemaker’s Club at local, state and national levels and local, state and national Teacher’s Organizations. She also has been named Volunteer of the Year, in 2008 was named in the first group of Tri-County Women of the Year by the Times-Tribune, and the list just goes on and on. She has been named a Kentucky Colonel by at least four different governors. She said that she is truly humbled by these many honors and she is certainly by no means perfect. If she could only say one thing to all of us it would be, “Practice loving your neighbor as yourself and you can never go wrong.”

Mary Alice’s favorite chapter in the Bible is the “love chapter,” 1 Corinthians 13. She said there is no reason for anyone in this area not to attend church because we are truly blessed with great churches. She is at her happiest moments when she is in church or helping others achieve happiness in life.