

“My New Life in Catalina” While living in Denver, CO, I was the caretaker for my mother before she was moved to Medford, OR. My sister lived near Medford and felt it was her turn to become my mother’s caretaker. Meanwhile, in the prior year, my older brother bought a home in SaddleBrooke Ranch north of Catalina and encouraged me to move to Arizona. I settled in Catalina in September of 2014.

In my first two years in Catalina, I worked at the Olive Garden in the Oro Valley MarketPlace. I then changed jobs and began working at Panera Bread located further south at First Street and Oracle Road where I still work today. I first became aware of Mountain Shadows in my daily travels to work, as well as when I ventured into Oro Valley and Tucson. I finally stopped in and attended Mountain Shadows two-years later, in October of 2016. Even in that initial experience of attending a Sunday worship service, I was attracted by all the warm, welcoming church members. The clear-headedness of Pastor Rachel was a bonus. I joined as a member shortly thereafter.

My favorite hobbies are playing the guitar and singing. I have a six-string acoustic guitar, and I began to play in the mid-1970’s. My main influences musically are singer-songwriters like Jim Croce, Paul Simon, James Taylor, Cat Stevens, and of course, the Beatles. I joined the choir where I got to use my passion for music. I’ve learned much from the talented Music Ministry Director Charmaine Piane Dame and the late Randy Pennington. God bless all!