



PEGGY CLAYPOOL ALLAN

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Children: David and Sara Scott Hall, Tim Hall and Dawn Bascomb, James and Michele Bagby Allan

Grandchildren: Lilli Hall (7), Ben Hall (16), Hannah Hall (15), Natalie Bascomb (14), Louis Bascomb (12), Gracey Allan (5) and a baby due next Jan.

How does one sum up 50 years in a few paragraphs? A lot of time has passed since I have seen most of you, and many things have happened in my life. I will try to be as brief as possible in sharing my life over the past 50 years.

I began my college career at Northwest Christian College in the fall of 1963. During my freshman year I became reacquainted and fell in love with my brother-in-law's college roommate, Gary Hall. I put my education on hold. We were married in August of 1964 and moved to Bellingham, WA where Gary became the Associate Pastor of First Christian Church. Our first son, David, was born in May of 1965.

In 1967, we moved to Oklahoma where Gary went to seminary and earned his Masters of Divinity degree in 1971. Our second son, Tim, was born in September of 1968. In June of 1971, we moved to Lodi, CA in order for Gary to serve the First Christian Church there. He served the church there for three years and then we moved on to Vacaville, CA to a new pastorate for him. During this time, I was a stay-at-home mom.

In the fall of 1974, Gary and I separated and divorced. I met my second husband Don Allan in Vacaville, and we were married in July of 1975. We lived in the Sacramento area for the next 32 years, and our son James was born in Sacramento in October, 1977. Throughout those years, I went back to school and received my BA in Communication Studies from California State University, Sacramento in 1995 – shortly after my 50th birthday. Interestingly, my middle son Tim received his BA in Environmental Studies in the same commencement ceremony, and my youngest son James graduated from high school that year, as well. I worked in the Communication Studies Department as the Outreach and Recruiting Coordinator until I retired in 2007. We now live in Lancaster, PA.



Those are the basics – now for a few details which are very important to our story. My first husband Gary was a gay man who came out to me shortly before our divorce. This was a hard thing to deal with back in the 70s, and we (Gary and his life partner Hal and Don and I) worked hard to remain a family in the sense that we cared about each other and for our sons jointly. It wasn't always easy, but we were very close and helped each other through the tough times – like Gary's "coming out" to friends and family. Life has been good to me, and our relationship has helped me to be an advocate for the rights of the LGBT community wherever we have lived. We have three wonderful sons who have loving and supportive spouses. Our grandchildren (six of them ranging in age from 16 to 6 – with a 7th due in January, 2014) are loving and supportive, as well. Unfortunately, Gary died suddenly in September of 2012, which affected all of us deeply. I am so fortunate to have such a loving family who pulls together when the times get tough. We are always there for each other, even though we are spread over many miles – from New Hampshire to New Mexico.