

Dr. & Mrs. William L. Allen
P.O. Box 99
Paradise, CA 95967
(916) 877-1661

June 20, 1995

Oakland Church of Christ
22355 W. 11 Mile road
Southfield, MI 48034

I was so thrilled to receive the announcement of the Strathmoor Homecoming, and had hoped we could attend. However, my husband is scheduled for necessary foot surgery in July so we won't be able to make it.

I would like to say a sincere thanks to any of the Strathmoor members still around. It was a wonderful, caring congregation in which to be a teenager.

I consider myself one of the original members of the congregation. I was baptised by Brother Jewel W, Norman at the Ferndale congregation so I placed membership with my parents Cyril and Lavina Kleyn at the first service, meeting in the bank building on Grand River.

How exciting it was to have Bible School classes in the vault and in the small teller rooms. As I remember we had good crowds even from the very beginning.

Later our minister Brother A. J. Bachman helped with the new building on Greenfield Road. He and the members provided most of the work themselves.

I feel besides having wonderful Christian parents, the Strathmoor congregation had a great influence on the lives of we four Kleyn children.

Fred became a chemical engineer for General Food Corp and was an elder in the Hollywood Church of Christ for many years until his retirement and move to Vista California.

Herb is a Medical Doctor and has been an elder of the Visalia, California church for 30 years. They sponsor the World Bible School program.

Muriel's husband Windell Jones was an elder for the Costa Mesa California congregation for 25 years, until he resigned because of health problems. Muriel has worked with the elderly for many years - taking them to doctor appointments, shopping, even getting up in the middle of the night to care for the sick in an emergency, and arranging hospital care and financial help in many instances.

My husband, Strathmoor members know him as Doc Allen, in addition to his medical practice, was the Director of Student Health at Pepperdine University for almost 30 years. He has been an elder for 45 years. First at the Southwest congregation where he served along with Brother Pepperdine and Brother Huff (formerly of Detroit) and others, then at the Inglewood congregation who sponsored the Phillipine Bible College, and now at the church in Paradise in Northern California where we are now retired.

Again I want to say thank you to any former Strathmoor members still living and to praise those gone on for the influence they had on the Kleyn family lives and their kindnesses to us when our father was killed in 1937.

These include the Whortons, Frenches (Mary French was such a memorable Sunday School teacher and children's party giver) the McLain's, Sims, Spragues, Gentry's, Rush's and many many more.

I am now 75 years old and as I have grown older, I've realized more and more how grateful I am for a loving and caring Christian church family and growing up in a Christian home.

May God bless the Oakland Church and the "Homecoming Weekend!"

With Christian Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thelma Kleyn Allen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Thelma Kleyn Allen