

# 10 Questions

for **SANDY JEWELL** by *Shirley Belcher*

## What is your educational background and preparation for teaching?

I grew up in Middletown attending Middletown City Schools--- Jefferson (1-5), Lincoln Sixth Grade, Roosevelt Junior High, and Middletown Senior High (class of 1957 who will hold its 60<sup>th</sup> class reunion next month). I graduated from Miami University, Oxford, in 1961, and was ready to be a first-grade teacher.

## What inspired you to teach kindergarten and first grade?

From my first year at Jefferson, I wanted to be a first-grade teacher like Elizabeth Pritchett, who I loved.

## Where did you teach? What did you like most about teaching?

I student taught with my husband's first-grade teacher, Marie Beaton, at Wilson School. My first teaching assignment was next door to my first-grade teacher, Mrs. Pritchett, at Creekville School. I taught for 34 years at Creekview, Sherman, and Roosevelt Elementary Schools and retired in 1996. The joy of teaching was watching the growth of the children throughout the year—mentally, physically, and creatively.

## How has educating young children changed since you taught?

Teaching methods are different. It would be hard to go into the classroom now.



*Sandy Jewell taught kindergarten and first grade for over 34 years in the Middletown Schools. She holds a commemorative plate given to her upon retirement.*

## Have you used your teaching skills in other ways?

Not today, but I taught Bible School at Breiel Boulevard Church of God for several years when our children were young.

## What is your wish for Middletown Schools?

That we keep our "Middie Pride" and that our students excel and become leaders in our community.

## What do you recall most about your younger days?

Playing outside until dark, attending summer dances at

Sunset Park, and in high school going to the First Presbyterian Church and attending Middle Manor after the Middies' game.

## Who is family to you?

My husband Joseph is deceased. Daughter Jennifer Bowden who teaches at Monroe High School; son-in-law Steve; granddaughters Emma, Hanna, and Ella; daughter-in-law Sherry who was married to our son Jeff who passed from a brain tumor. Like me, Jeff graduated from Miami University, Oxford, and he taught school in Trenton.

## What do you do for fun?

I love to bake and bring goodies when I help at Central Connections assembling our monthly newsletter. I help assemble boxes every month for Meals on Wheels. I attend SilverSneakers exercise class weekly. I belong to 2 teacher sororities—Alpha Delta Kappa and Delta Kappa Gamma—and to the Middletown Women Teacher's Club.

## What don't people know about you?

Those who remember the Strand Theater on Central Avenue and the red-haired manager, Nell Lentz, don't know she was my mother. Member-writer Shirley Belcher has a sister-in-law, Wilma Belcher, who worked for my mother. Many don't know I won a blue ribbon at the Butler County Fair for my pumpkin bread. 🍂