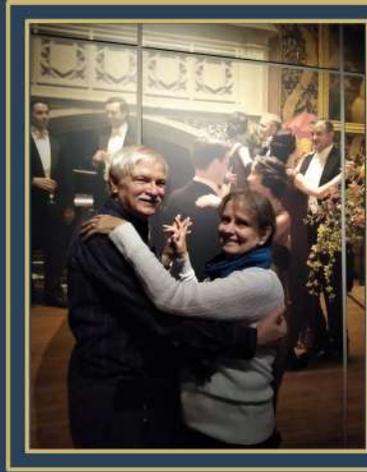


Benson Member Spotlight

DONALD BAGGETT



Donald (Don) Baggett was born in Portsmouth, VA while his dad was stationed there in the Navy. Being a child of a career military officer, Don attended 14 different schools from kindergarten through high school, finally settling in north Florida. As a young man on his first job, he saw NASA history, watching the launch of Apollo 11 from the building windows in 1969.

Don first moved to the Atlanta area to attend theology school, 1978-1981. Returning to Florida after graduation, he became an ordained minister as a pastor in the United Methodist Church denomination.

In 1990, he began his second career as a Computer Programmer and returned to the Atlanta area in 1994. He retired in 2019, after a 50-year career spanning 2 very disparate occupations.

Enjoying retirement now, Don has four passions:

1. His family: he and his wife Shirley together have 5 children and 5 grandchildren.
2. His involvement with St David's Episcopal Church, as an usher, Sunday School teacher and head of the Stephen Ministry. The ministry offers listening and support while assisting individuals in navigating crises.
3. Classic Cars, especially those from the era of the 1930s and 40s, traveling several times a year to personal collections, shows and museums. He is a member of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA).
4. Dancing: Cajun, Waltz, Two Step, Jitterbug and Zydeco. He is an instructor, DJ and the current president of the Atlanta Cajun Zydeco Association (ACZA). Don dances at events and festivals around the country, including Madi Gras in rural Louisiana.

Don was already familiar with the Benson Center since the ACZA often rented the facilities for their dance events. He officially joined the center when he retired and has since taken many classes and workshops including Mahjong, Circuit Training, Aqua Bikes and Zumba.

His advice for anyone considering joining? "In retirement, it's important to stay active and build a social network of other people and keep your mind active and growing. You can do all of that at the Benson Center. There are few places like it, plus it's free for Fulton County residents and they serve a great lunch!"

