



You Made a Difference

NIC Pension Initiative



"Difference Makers"

Rev. Ralph Wilson

Camp Chaplain at Reynoldswood

Submitted by: Rev. Katherine Paisley

Rochelle UMC

I was painfully shy as a child, and we had just moved again to Ottawa, IL for my dad to serve Ottawa First UMC as pastor when I had completed the fourth grade. While the family settled into a new parsonage, I was sent off to Reynoldswood.

Rev. Wilson was the volunteer chaplain and he noticed that I had difficulty connecting with the other campers. He gave me a piece of advice that I have used throughout my life. He said that if I looked for someone else that seemed uncomfortable or didn't fit in and talked with them, making an effort to make them more comfortable, that I would forget all about my own discomfort.

As many times as I've moved, I have used this valuable advice and been thankful for his thoughtfulness in reaching out to a shy and awkward child at camp for the first time. Perhaps volunteer chaplains know that they are doing a wonderful thing in giving that week at camp in the summer.

Sometimes their gift of service and wisdom is even life-changing. It was for me.