

SERVANT OF THE WEEK—

JOYCE CRAIG



Joyce Craig is an OLV “lifer”, and says she loves the people here. She and husband Jerry have five children aged 20-25, and live in Brimfield, but continue to come to OLV as their spiritual home. Joyce worked for the former Goodyear Relief Association from 1977-1985, but has been a busy homemaker the rest of the time. She said, “I love gardening, canning, reading--especially the daily scriptures, journaling and praying, travelling to Jeff’s (youngest son) diving meets, family time, and dark chocolate. My main gift is hospitality as wife, mother, and avid volunteer. I love teens and young adults, and welcome kids, kids’ friends, and family to stay at my house anytime.” Joyce has been very active in Brimfield, giving of her time in in the Parent’s Club in the schools, working to pass local levies, and serving at the retirees’ luncheons for the Brimfield Fire Dept. Joyce has also been active at OLV. Her faith

shines through as she said. “I feel God has called me to be His daily servant as my job and way of life. God blesses me so overwhelmingly daily, answers so many prayers, and gives me abundant energy that I need to share these blessings. I awake each AM with excitement as ask God what He has different in store for me today. I selfishly, can’t wait for His next blessing.—the next thing to thank Him for, from which to grow!! It makes me understand more of who I am in God’s eyes.” Through the years, Joyce has been active in Vacation Bible School and has given years as a PSR Assistant or Facilitator. She’s helped at the Rummage Sale, has offered her cooking and baking talents for receptions and the Bazaar, and has enjoyed Mother’s Club and a prayer group. Joyce said, “My agape prayer group, the holiest fun women you’ll ever meet, is my most prized possession at OLV. It is also where my faith has grown, where I have learned what blessings are in my “cup”. Not every moment for Joyce and family might be seen as a blessing. In 1997 their house burned down, but they appreciated the assistance of their OLV family while they rebuilt their home. Last fall Joyce tried something new at OLV. Even though she was shy and a bit reluctant to get involved with adult programs, she answered an ad for help on the Adult Faith Formation Committee. She had an idea that led to the development of inviting “The Lost Boys” to OLV. But she didn’t stop at suggesting something nice for others to do--she did most of the work herself. She made the flyers and distributed them far and wide. She even stopped folks on the streets to invite them. She made dinner for the Lost Boys, and made refreshments for those who came to the successful program. Because of these efforts, the young men from Africa were invited to share their story at two Akron churches and one in Cleveland. Joyce said, “I learned that anytime you step out of your comfort zone and give your 100% for anything that’s for God, He’s “got your back” and blesses you and others abundantly. My lifetime goal is to get to heaven without ever getting a speeding ticket!”