



Carol Hill Church - 2015

CAROL HILL CHURCH

We lived in Myrtle Beach most of my early childhood because my dad, Ike Hill, was the singing, clowning waiter at The Bowery in the early 50's and 60's. Billy Wingate was the piano player at The Bowery when my dad was there and my stepmother was a singer on the back patio of the Ocean Forest Hotel. The beach, music, and dancing was in his blood and he passed that love to me.

Charlotte was home and where I grew up. After high school, I met Johnny Church at The Cellar. He could dance and he loved music and I was crazy about him. We married and had two wonderful children, Jerry and Leslie. Johnny and I had great fun going to The Cellar, Paul's Lounge, Park Center, B&G Trading Post, and Groucho's but after we had our babies, we stopped going out.

Then Sherrill Meredith told us about a party Swink Laughter was putting on called SOS. We couldn't make the first one, but we went to the second one and haven't missed one since. We decided we needed some dance lessons and everyone said take from "Shad Alberty". Shad and Brenda were teaching at Groucho's so we started taking lessons about 1982 and took 2 years of their group classes and then decided to compete so we took one-on-one private lessons with Shad for about 6 years. It was life changing.

So many great female dancers took me under their wing. Sandra Schwartz would say, "Show me what you learned baby", and Babs McIntosh, Sharon Phillips, Glenda Johnson, and Joanne Johnson all helped me. We danced SPA and CSA beginning with Amateur and earned the rank of Pro. Then we taught lessons for years at various clubs and 3 SOS cruises and a AAA Motor Club Royal Caribbean cruise; taught at the Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, West Va., danced at the Winston Cup Gala, planned and hosted a "Beach Day" at Carowinds Paramount Theme Park and in 1991, Al Munn asked us to do an instructional video demonstrating advanced shag steps. And in 1996 we danced in Dewitt Hinson's, Once in a Lifetime Presenting the Shag to the World at the Olympics in Atlanta. We were also invited to Lindy Hopper Legend Frankie Manning's 80th birthday party at the Roosevelt Hotel in NYC. In 2012, we performed for the National Democratic Convention in Charlotte.

The Shag is a way of life for us and we've been so blessed to do these wonderful activities, but most of all, meet so many good people, some of whom would become our life-long friends. I remember Shad telling me "take care of the dance and it will take care of you". And so it has. My love affair with this dance and the music continues. I think my sister, Sandy Hill McDaniel and my Dad, Ike Hill, Shad and Billy Wingate are here to share this joy with me. I'm so humbled and grateful to be inducted into the Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame and I will do my best to represent it with respect, dignity, goodwill and good dancing.