

# MEET OUR STAFF

## **Karen Chalmers** **Member Development Coordinator**



Karen refused to give us her picture, but we got one anyway. As the coordinator for services to visitors and new members, Karen has a face that is probably familiar to you, but we wanted to make sure...

So what does Karen do around here, anyway, besides pushing Dewey to have staff retreats? Initially, she serves as SPC's representative to visitors, providing a warm welcome and following up with correspondence. On any given Sunday you will find her circulating in Fellowship Hall before and after worship, greeting people and answering questions, and above all talking and laughing and generally conveying the idea that Sandia is a wonderful place to belong (which it is!).

During the week Karen works with volunteers who call on first-time visitors, providing names for subsequent contacts and invitations to the monthly inquiry class.

Karen works with ministry units to provide feedback concerning worship attendance, the welcoming process, interest in programs/ classes, things that attract or bother visitors, etc., and recommends ways to improve effectiveness. She trains volunteers who staff the Information Table on Sunday mornings, so that visitors can learn more about us. Karen stays in touch and works with long-term visitors who attend SPC but do not join. She contacts and relays information regarding members and nonmembers whose attendance has declined.

Each month Karen attends session meetings to welcome new members, take their pictures, write short bios, and have them fill out personal interest forms. She posts the photos and bios and introduces the new members at worship.

Karen is married to Greg Chalmers, with three grown children living away from home. She hails from Oklahoma and exudes the warmth and down-home style of her native state. Karen pitches in around SPC in many ways that aren't related to her job: hosting small groups, serving as covenant partner for teens going through Confirmation, helping with fellowship events, and so on. As specified in her official job description, Karen has an "outward, obvious enthusiasm for the Lord's work and the work of SPC."