

# 20 Things! Get to Know Denise Howell

1. Denise has two children – Alex, 35, and Emily, 28.
2. She and Emily share an apartment in Decatur and love their cat “Turtle,” named for her coloring. Her favorite pet growing up was Fifi, a Pekinese and Poodle mix.
3. She was born in Atlanta and grew up in Chamblee with her three sisters and one brother.
4. Her parents were Junior Lackey (who died in 2012) and Florine, who is 92.
5. Her father owned a gas station when she was growing up.
6. Denise and Emily visit Florine every Sunday afternoon. They gave her a life size cutout of Elvis Presley for Mothers’ Day this year. Florine (in her ‘80s) rushed the stage to catch a lei being thrown to the audience by an Elvis impersonator.
7. Denise most enjoyed math and English in high school – and uses what she learned every day on the job at DPC.
8. She remembers the best vacation the family took – to the new (at the time) Bear Paw family resort in Murphey, NC. It offered a pool, waterfall, horseback riding and bunk beds!
9. After growing up, her vacation highlight was a week at Emerald Isle, NC, to the beach home of a sister (now sold).
10. She thinks “Field of Dreams” was a very magical movie and will watch it every time it comes on.
11. A fan of music, Denise prefers contemporary Christian music, anything from the ‘70s and ‘80s.
12. Denise’s favorite “color” for her clothing is paisley and remembers a pink paisley dress an older sister passed down to her when she was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. That sister loved buying the dress at Rich’s when she got her first job and could buy it without looking at the price tag!
13. Favorite place for dinner is the Last Catch in Jasper (for great crab cakes) and she enjoys Melton’s for lunch breaks in Decatur.
14. She is a member of Grace Fellowship Church in Snellville, watching online Sunday mornings.
15. Her Saturdays off usually are spent going to lunch and shopping with a high school friend.
16. If she weren’t a church secretary, Denise would like to throw pottery!
17. Greece is her dream travel destination. She has only taken two commercial plane rides, both to visit her sister in Philadelphia.
18. Her senior trip in high school was a cruise to the Bahamas! She did not get seasick!
19. Her Halloween costume each year was whatever cartoon character or TV show character was popular. She hated having to wear a jacket over her costume if it were chilly that October.
20. She loves Christmas decorations featuring holly leaves – her full name is *Holly* Denise Lackey Howell. Dragonflies are a favorite for earrings and other jewelry.

# Thank You, Denise Howell, for 20 Years at DPC!

Denise's job description as "Program and Ministerial Secretary" is extensive, but there are many details you may not know.



1. Patiently looks up addresses and phone numbers if you ask her, and helps you load the Church Life App where you can find contact information yourself.
2. She coordinates the scheduling of baptisms and weddings, explaining church policies and availability.
3. When families want to plan future memorial services or secure space in the Memorial Garden, they start with Denise.
4. She maintains the database of members, keeping the session informed and making reports to the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.
5. For worship planning every other week, Denise gathers information and maintains the working Google doc for the pastors and live stream team.
6. Provides data on membership, baptisms, deaths and new members in the annual report.
7. The slides you see during Sunday's services or on the screen for Wednesday night suppers or on the monitors around on the campus are prepared by our church secretary.
8. Denise now prepares and sends out the weekly email with prayer concerns and updates on our members and their extended family and friends.
9. She supports Pastors' Aides by creating annual notebooks with a database of those who are visited and the volunteers.
10. For Presbyterian Women, Denise creates the annual directory of members.
11. She supports programs such as Compassion Camp by creating signage and rosters.
12. She sorts mail and adds postage to outgoing envelopes and packages.
13. Denise is the wizard who knows everything about our copier, folder, paper cutter, coil binder and laminator in addition to the postage machine.
14. New staff members count on Denise to learn the practical aspects of working in the DPC office.
15. She maintains the session minutes book, including lists of new members, deaths and baptism.
16. Denise prepares packs for nine session meetings each year, consolidating reports from teams and ministries, communications to the session and membership changes.
17. She shares her knowledge and experience working in Microsoft Word, Word Perfect, Excel, PowerPoint, ACS and Google docs.
18. She maintains files for memorial gifts and prints stationery for correspondence with families and donors.
19. What does she like most about her job? Using her creativity to "make things pretty" creating cards and communications, experimenting with fonts and clip art.
20. What chore does she dislike? Having to fill pews with information and brochures.