



My Name is Chistine Galoppa and I am in my 10th year as a member of the Centerville Baptist Pre-School family.

I hail from a mile square town called Ridgefield Park in New Jersey. I earned an Honors High School diploma and later completed courses in Mortgage Loan Servicing and Banking Accounting Principles since at the time I was employed with a Savings and Loan.

I have been married over 25 years to my wonderful Navy man Jim Galoppa and we have two sons, Michael (24) is a graduate of Old Dominion University and our younger boy Adam (20) and in his third year at James Madison University.

Over the years and places we have called home, I have been employed by many different Pre-School facilities, mostly with a faith based theme. I began in Jacksonville Florida when the church I attended, Peeler United Methodist, decided to put together a pre-school. I completed a course in Early Childhood Development offered at Jacksonville Community College by Health and Rehabilitative Services of Florida.

We moved to Dahlgren, Virginia in 1990 where I was hired first by the base chapel and the added to my duties being employed by the Child Development Center for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade.

After 4 1/2 years there we moved to Hawaii. Not long after the furniture was in place I sought out a childcare position and found one at the chapel in the housing area known as the Aliamanu Military Reservation, (Ali a Manu translates from Hawaiian to "resting place for birds"). After a few years the program was absorbed by the active Child Development Center run by the Army. I had to re-apply but was quickly given a position in the toddler program which age span was 18 months to 3 years. The 20 training modules required by the Army were intense and took me 22 months to complete. As a part of the training I was required to write two books using the children in my group as inspiration. One book I created and titled "AJ Takes a Walk" was printed, "published if you will", and distributed throughout the Army program facilities.

Now we come to the recent past, moving off island to Chesapeake, Virginia in July of 2000. I really thought I would return to banking but I could not convince any establishment that my volunteer commitment to Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society was a priority. I had already began working in the nursery at my current church Great Bridge United Methodist being asked to apply by my friend Amber Walker, and believed God was calling me once again to minister to the smallest of His lambs. I heard of the opportunity for employment at Centerville Baptist Church. I was pleased to be hired by Cathy Curling because of her enthusiasm over my experience and respect for my volunteer commitment. The program has kept me trained by sending me to CPR and First Aid classes, Medicine Administration Training and wonderful workshops to keep my ideas fresh.

I spent 9 years in Parent's Morning Out, the last year in the infant room with 8 precious babies. This year I was given a position as assistant to the 3 day 3 year old program and love every minute. I have seen so many children over the years grow in their classroom concepts and also their faith which is why I prefer a program in a church. Centerville Baptist Church Pre-School has always impressed me as not only a school but a mission to the community. Being a part of it all has blessed me in so many ways and I extend my gratitude to all.