

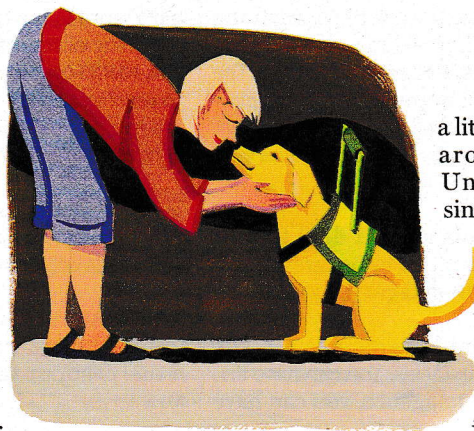
Pass It On

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Choir Boy

A ROYAL BLUE canvas coat IDs Beacon as a guide dog in training. But the young golden retriever/Lab mix is also a beacon to Wayne Linville, the choir director for First United Church of Christ in Winston-Salem. A few years ago the congregation raised enough money to sponsor three puppies, and a representative from Southeastern Guide Dogs (guidedogs.org) came to speak one Sunday. Wayne and his wife, Becky, who sat at opposite ends of the choir loft, both knew immediately they wanted to train one of the puppies. "Beacon sang in the choir since he was eight weeks old," says Wayne. And though Wayne was the trainer, he learned plenty from Beacon. The number-one lesson? Patience. "You can't hurry. Dogs don't know you have to be somewhere in fifteen minutes."

Soon, Beacon will move on to help a visually impaired person. He recently left for harness training, and the Linvilles had to say goodbye. It's been



a little too quiet around First United ever since. "Most of our congregation are in their seventies and eighties. They really enjoyed seeing Beacon at church," Wayne reports. He and Becky plan to train another pup ASAP.

—LAURA KNIGHT MORETZ
WINSTON-SALEM,
NORTH CAROLINA

Fantastic Frances

JUST ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO, MY husband, Paul, and I met a remarkable woman—Frances Landers of El Dorado, Arkansas, who has dedicated herself to helping the children of Haiti through The Haiti Education Foundation. We were so inspired by what Frances told us that we planned a trip to Haiti to see the schools her foundation had built and meet the people she'd helped. We were amazed by what she had accomplished.

KATHERINE MAHONEY