

Minister 'inspired' to join church

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Correspondent

When Stouffville's Kathi Phillips decided to change her lifestyle, her decision was not an easy one; neither was it one that could be called "typical" of the change one expects from a 41-year-old mother of three.

But a few months ago, when Phillips announced her decision to become a United Church minister, she took everyone — except her husband — by surprise.

The Dorman Dr. resident, who grew up in Niagara Falls and moved to Stouffville about 10



Rev. Kathi Phillips decided to become a minister of the Stouffville United Church last September.

years ago, says although there were no ministers in her immediate family, she was always involved in church activities. As a teenager she enjoyed youth groups and choir — especially the singing — "I've always loved the music."

After moving to Stouffville, Phillips joined the Stouffville United Church, and it was there, about five years ago, that the first seeds of her future calling were sown.

When a group of ministry students came to Stouffville to do their internship in the community,

they made a big impression on her. "I really admired them — especially the women," she says. "And I often used to think, 'I should do that.'" At that time it was just a thought, but one that was "always there, lingering."

After becoming discouraged at some of the "ethics" being practiced in her workplace, she quit. She stayed home for a year, and all the while she says the idea of entering the ministry was there, "percolating."

Finally, she could ignore it no more. ■ Please see page 16 ■

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