

Frances Parks

by Lauren Hardin

Duplin County Commissioner Frances Parks has lived in Duplin County her entire life. Before she was a commissioner, she attended many of the meetings to voice her opinions as a citizen. She not only attended meetings in Duplin County, but in others as well! This itself though, was not the main reason that prompted her to pursue the position.

Mrs. Frances Parks is strong in her Christian faith, and is a Sunday school teacher. She had been considering running for the job as a commissioner for a while, but would not do so without the Lord's approval! A scripture from Luke was the answer to her prayers saying "You have a message to tell." She took this with her and ran for the office. In office, God has been her support and she has continued to go to him for help and guidance.

Mrs. Parks says that honesty, morals, and consideration of the citizens of our county are the three most important things as a county commissioner, but most importantly honesty. We need loyal and trustworthy leaders who have the interests of the people in mind! Mrs. Parks would like to see growth of Duplin County in the future. Specifically, she would love to see more activities for youth! There used to be bowling allies and all sorts of things, she said, but now that is all gone! She would love to see a cinema built, and believes it would more than likely pay for itself in the long run! Mrs. Parks is also a large supporter of the elderly.

According to Mrs. Frances Parks, the hardest job as a commissioner is budgeting. There is one big budget, but it is split into many different funds. It can be hard to decide what to provide funding for and what needs to be cut. They want to keep the citizens' interests and cares in mind, but still there is the fact that there is a limited amount of money and they can only take on so many tasks at a time. It is stressful!

When asked what some of her concerns about Duplin County were, Mrs. Parks responded by saying,

"The size and population of Duplin County is definitely a problem. I don't know if you know this, but Duplin County is the seventh largest county in North Carolina, but it isn't heavily populated. That puts an extra burden on us when we want to go put in a water system. There aren't many houses on a road that are going to pay that water bill, but in order to get it from point A to point B we must go down that road!"

Frances Parks is a leader with great determination, morals, and a love for the Lord. I don't think you can find any better! This country would be in a much better state, I believe, if we had more leaders like Mrs. Parks. She isn't afraid to take on challenges! After all, she served on six boards her first year as a commissioner. She does everything possible to serve the people of her county and more. Mrs. Frances Parks far exceeds the work of most commissioners! You can tell her heart is in it, and she truly cares about her community!

