

A Farewell Letter to St. John's from Ted & Jeanne Ederer



A Message from Ted & Jeanne Ederer

It has been nearly two years since we moved to Parkshore in Seattle and, since then, we have maintained our long-standing ties to St. John's while developing new relationships with fellow Episcopalians at Sunday services at Parkshore. This spring, we began to attend services at Epiphany, which is five minutes from Parkshore. And this summer we met with Fr. Michael and Fr. Doyt and made the difficult decision to formally transfer. This past week, we both had roles in the 8:45 service. And, today, we say "goodbye" to a church family that has been a primary focus of our and our family's lives since 1975.

In August 1975, we (Ted, 34) (Jeanne, 32) celebrated our 9th wedding anniversary. We had three boys (John – 6, Tom – 4 and Mark – 3). We had lived in the Houghton area of Kirkland for six years and on September 5 we moved into a new house that we built three blocks away. That remained our home until June 2023.

Jeanne was raised in the Roman Catholic Church and schools and Ted was brought up in the Episcopal Church, being active in St. Stephen's, Laurelhurst and diocesan youth activities. We were married at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Seattle and the boys were baptized at Holy Family in Kirkland. In 1975, Jeanne, John and Tom were teaching and attending Sunday School at Holy Family. In August, Ted attended a funeral service for a close friend at St. Margaret's in Bellevue and had Holy Communion for the first time in many years. Driving home, Ted committed to returning to church and immediately began attending the 8:00 service at St. John's. Fr. Robert Hayman soon had him involved, serving as lector and acolyte. The next summer, Jeanne decided that the family would attend church together and St. John's became our home.

And what a home it has been! Many of our closest friends we met at St. John's. We

attended Marriage Encounter at Camp Huston in September 1975. We each made Cursillo in February 1978. We worked many Cursillos over the years and were both honored to serve as Rector/Rectora. We each began to meet weekly with a prayer/reunion group and continue to do so today. In May, 1980, Ted's group (then Jim Neal and Jerry Persson) began Men's Group. Over the years, we have been blessed by so many, many activities and events: teaching Sunday school, leading the youth group, Through the Bible in a Year, Stephen's Ministry, family camps, couple's weekends, serving as pastoral care director, search committees, vestry, education committee, book study group that met in our home, treasurer, finance committee, Gitfiddle and Hosanna, leading women's retreats, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, Christmases, Holy Weeks, Good Friday Kirkland walks, Easters, funeral and memorial services, and St. John's 100th anniversary. From Fr. Robert Hayman to Fr. Bob Dunn to Fr. Don Mackay to Fr. Scot Wright to Fr. Lance Ousley to Fr. Michael Ryan. Personal friendships, spiritual guidance, worship leadership.

These are all memories we take with us and hold dear. Thank you, the many, many wonderful people – current, past, departed – of St. John's.



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