

St. Matthew Church Biography: Art & Pam Ladley
by Kathleen Monahan
March 2022

Art and Pam Ladley came to St. Matthew in the early fall of 2002 just after moving to Northeast Tacoma from the Renton Highlands. Friends at St. Margaret's, their previous church, had said to look up the Dippels if you should go to St. Matthew. Amazingly, the Dippels were greeters when the Ladleys arrived their very first Sunday here! Since then, Art and Pam been active in many areas of parish life: Pam with outreach, foodbank, choir, library; Art with outreach, foodbank, choir, vestry and treasurer. Both were also Diocesan Convention delegates for a number of years.

Art and Pam met in Hawaii during the summer of 1959. Pam was just finishing her junior year at the University of Hawaii and Art was a Coast Guard pilot stationed at Barbers Point. Three weeks after a whirlwind courtship they were engaged. Three weeks later Pam returned to Hood College in Maryland for her senior year. They corresponded by mail for three months (never a phone call) before Pam returned to Oahu for their wedding the day after Christmas. Three days before the wedding, Art got orders to graduate school in Dayton, Ohio where he earned an MSEE at the Air Force Institute of Technology. Being in Dayton enabled Art to catch an occasional Friday courier flight to Washington D.C. so he could have a weekend with Pam (which didn't help with her trying to study!). When Pam graduated from Hood College with a BA in Sociology, she was able to set up housekeeping with Art.

After leaving Dayton, they went to Elizabeth City, North Carolina where their son Russ and daughter Robin were born. From there they enjoyed tours in Washington, DC, back to Hawaii, on to Port Angeles, then to both Kodiak and Annette Island in Alaska, back down southeast to Miami, again in Washington, DC and finally here in Seattle. Along the way, Pam was active at various times as a Red Cross aide, Civil Air Patrol, Brownie den mother, choir member at churches and chapels, driving elderly people to medical appointments and homemaker and mother while Art was doing lots of flying throughout the US, Europe, and many islands in the Pacific, Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore.

With both Russ and Robin in college, Pam was in real estate for a few years before becoming a legal secretary for two attorneys in Kirkland. After Art retired from the Coast Guard, he worked initially as an engineering manager for the Avtech Corporation. When the local economy sagged in the early 1980's, he moved went to Boeing working for seventeen years in various engineering capacities and ending as the manager for 737 Avionics Training Group.

Besides their involvement at St. Matthew, Pam and Art were board members of the Points Northeast Historical Society for many years and continue to enjoy the camaraderie of that group and the many friends they've met at St. Matthew and in the Northeast Tacoma and Browns Point areas.



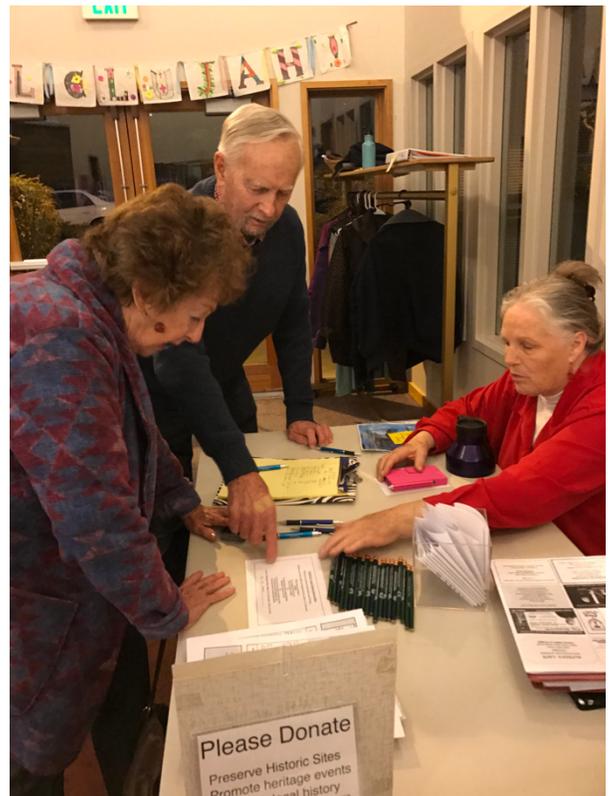
Art & Pam



Pam & Art with daughter Robin at her Peace Cops hut in Senegal



Art & son Russ



Art & Pam, with the late Pam Halsan at the Points NE Historical Society's Annual Meeting at St. Matthew