

Mary & Frank Blacker

By Kathleen Monahan

Mary and Frank met at a New Year's Eve party in Astoria, Oregon while attending college at Oregon State University in Corvallis. They completed their degrees, Frank's in Food Technology and Mary's in Education. Frank was a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and was committed to service in the Army. They married and spent their service time at Fort Dix in New Jersey.

Once Frank's ROTC commitment was completed, he took a job in Portland, Oregon with Fred Meyer and he and Mary moved back across the country to the Pacific Northwest. Frank found that he had a talent and love for working in Human Resources. The Blackers spent many years moving around the country (Prosser, WA, Tacoma, Boston, North Carolina, Aberdeen, Edgewood, and eventually Federal Way) as Frank worked for various companies. Frank retired from MC Machinery.

Mary also worked during this time. Using her degree in Education to teach in primary schools. Mary retired from the Federal Way School District and is still an active member of PEO (Philanthropic Education Organization).

Mary and Frank raised three daughters: Tammy, who is a Space Engineer; Ginger, who is a Nurse Practitioner; and Kim, who is an Engineer for Dell (by way of West Point). The Blackers have five grandchildren: Emily, Ryan, Erica, Chad and Greg. Mary very proudly states that they are all college graduates with careers.

Frank passed away in 2019 leaving a gap in Mary's life and here at St. Matthew. Over their years at St. Matthew both Mary and Frank served on the Vestry. Mary was Senior Warden and Frank was Junior Warden. Mary has been a long-standing member of the Alter Guild. Frank served as a Worship Leader and Mary has been known to read lessons to the congregation as well! The Blackers also played a huge role in bringing the Twelfth Night party back to our church in its original fashion.

Mary and Frank loved to travel and spent a two-year sabbatical in Germany. They also loved to hike, camp and boat with their family. And Mary says, "she and Frank loved to dance, dance, dance"!

Now that the Covid vaccine is available, Mary was recently able to travel to the East Coast to spend two weeks with her children. She has also been able to get in a few bridge games!

The Blackers came to St. Matthew from Lutheran and Methodist backgrounds but took to the Episcopalian liturgy with delight. They loved the St. Matthew parishioners and valued the Episcopal Church for its welcoming attitude for all people.

Mary is looking forward to being able to worship together once again at St. Matthew.

