

## St. Matthew Church Spotlight on Parishioner Randy White

By Kathleen Monahan (August 2021)

Randy White, our featured parishioner was born at the Northgate Mall. No, his mother wasn't shopping. There was a hospital operating in the Northgate Mall at one time. Of course, now it has some fame as the home of the training ice arena for the Kraken!

His folks ran a restaurant in Mountlake Terrace but come the Boeing Bust in the 70's, they eventually found work and settled in Madras, OR. He has two older brothers.

Randy attended Oregon State University for one year then moved to the University of Oregon in Eugene (bad move thinks this writer). Randy graduated in journalism, advertising and public relations. After graduating, Randy got employment with the State of Washington DSHS in their Division of Disability Determination. He worked at locations in Renton, Downtown Seattle and Federal Way. And they must have liked each other as Randy had a 34-year career with the DSHS. He served the longest as office chief. Randy also met his husband, Robert Goforth, there. In July, Randy and Robert celebrated 31 years together.

They have lived in Browns Point for 20 years and have loved it.

Randy discovered St. Matthew by attending a Christmas Eve Service with friends and parishioners Marcie and Gary Neuman. He was raised in the Assembly of God as a child. He liked the people and Father Kendall. From serving on the Points Northeast Historical Society Board, he also knew a few more parishioners such as Art and Pam Ladley and Kathleen Monahan.

With St. Matthews, he has been involved in litter pick up, Neighborhood living, Outreach, Vestry and more. He served as the St. Matthew representative for Tacoma Pride. He has served four years on Vestry with three of those years as Senior Warden. And according to Randy, "I have gotten to know everyone!" He describes St. Matthew and its parishioners "as a magical place" and says he has never formed such an attachment as he has with St. Matthew Church.

Randy and Robert love traveling and gardening. They are looking forward to getting back on planes for travel with the Covid rules changing. He thinks that when Robert retires in May, they will become "Snowbirds".

Randy describes his time with St. Matthew Church "as always being welcome and accepted." He is "blessed to know his friends and his time as a parishioner as restored his faith".

Randy feels restored in his faith, but he has also restored faith in the members of St. Matthew. Thank you, Randy for all you have done for our church, and we wish you happy traveling!

