

St. Matthew Episcopal Church at Browns Point - September Member Profile

**Sandy and Sueann Goretti – A Sisters Act!**

by Kathleen Monahan

Longtime Browns Point residents and St Matthew parishioners, Sandy and Sueann Goretti, have been committed members of our community spreading their helpfulness abundantly. Part of the Baby Boomer generation, they grew up in their family home on Slayden Road with younger sister, Shari. Their mother, Leanne, was also raised in Browns Point and attended the old Dash Point School.

In the late 1960's, all three girls and their mother were baptized at the same time by Father Carmen. They were later confirmed by Bishop Curtis at St. Matthew. The Goretti girls attended Sunday School and marched to the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers." They have fond memories of growing up in the church and their neighborhood. The fun they had in a safe community allowed children time to play and explore. Sueann and Sandy remember the St Matthew teen group called EYC. It was always good fun. They especially remember Father Carmen taking the group sledding!

They are productive adults in our Parish. They have served as Vestry members. Sandy is currently the Clerk of the Vestry and Sueann has served as Junior Warden. They have volunteered on many committees including Altar Guild, Marketing Committee, Film Festival, Auctions, Outreach and more. Sandy could be found often at the Bridging the Gap lectures on Sundays between the two services. Their mother Leanne was one of the first who was buried in the St. Matthew Memorial Garden in 2018. During this past summer, Sandy volunteered to weed the Memorial Garden.

Sueann works for Milgard and Sandy works for the Pierce County Elections Department. They both serve on the Board of the Noah's Pet Project which provides free health care to pet companions for older and low-income folk. Due to the COVID crisis, this nonprofit organization was slowed down in its mission having lost their building. However, they are starting to breathe new life in the project.

The sisters also enjoy gardening, watching sports, and visiting their cabin on Herron Island. Their most favorite activity is sharing the cabin with family and friends. Their sister, Shari, lives in Hoquiam with her two children. Sandy and Sueann are wonderful members of our Parish, instilling their values of strong faith and commitment to their church. They still reside in the family home. Their roots are deep in the Browns Point neighborhood. Both Sueann and Sandy believe St. Matthew Church was a great place for them as kids and now as adults. Like us all, they look forward to being together with other parishioners when we can gather in-person.

