

## Looking for a Church Home?

By Jeff and Linda Rockhey

My wife and I met and married here in the area thirty-four years ago while I was stationed here with the United States Navy. We loved the area and returned to it from SW Florida in 2012 for our son's wedding. We reflected on the great times we had here all those years ago and decided that this would be where we would retire.

We purchased a home in Grapeview and started our new lives here in May of 2017. My elderly mother came with us and enjoyed seeing the deer go through our yard and snow on the ground during the winter. The Pacific Northwest is a beautiful area to live in. As caregivers, we spent precious time with mom at home but rarely were able to go anywhere as a couple. When my mother became home bound, we contacted a beautiful church in Allyn via email [st.hugh.allyn@gmail.com](mailto:st.hugh.allyn@gmail.com) and requested that one of the ministers visit our home to bring communion to her. It was a great comfort for mom.

When mom was near the end of her life, our minister came to us again and performed last rites providing comfort to both mom and our family. Communion and last rites were performed without hesitation for mom before we even became members of the church. St. Hugh Episcopal Church was there for my family when we needed them.

St. Hugh Episcopal Church is up the hill on E Wheelright St., off the "main drag" (Hwy 16) and overlooks the beautiful waters of North Bay. The church has a labyrinth out back that you can walk for reflection and to gain a sense of peace and serenity. It's a small church with a small but very welcoming congregation. It doesn't take long to meet and be greeted by our friendly church family.

I have always been Episcopalian, but my wife has not which can sometimes be a problem for some people. St. Hugh welcomes **everyone** who wants to enter the Lord's house. There are two active ministers and two retired ministers that practice a common ministry. There is an enthusiastic choir and music during the service, and the Lord's Supper is served each Sunday. After services there is a coffee hour to talk, catch up and just socialize. We knew right away that this was the right church for us.

For the last eight months we have regularly attended services and have participated in almost all the events the church has provided. There is an excellent men's fellowship group that meets regularly as well as the women's ECW group. There are other study groups that also meet for various reasons and specific subjects throughout the church year. Annually, scholarships are offered to our community youth. The church has several outreach charities that are continuously supported throughout the year for the local community, as well. All these things and more made it an easy decision for us to become part of the St. Hugh family.

If you are looking for a new church home, please consider giving St. Hugh a visit. You will be welcomed with open arms and you won't be disappointed.

Jeff & Linda Rockhey