

## Getting to know Robin Cook

*Parishioner Judy Tingley is interviewing parishioners and helping them to share a bit of their stories with us. This is the eleventh in this series of stories – look forward to more of them in the future. Thanks, Judy, for helping us get to know each other a bit better!*



Robin Cook, and her husband, Doug, attended their very first St. Barnabas church service early May 2007. They had moved into their new home on the Indianola spit just days before from Maryland. Doug discovered St. Barnabas on a previous trip while shopping for a washer and dryer when he saw a street sign on Madison with an arrow pointing down Wyatt that read Episcopal Church. Yes, those street signs did exist at one time.

He thought Robin would like the church based on its Norman style architecture alone. St. Barnabas reminded them a bit of the church they had left behind, St. George's Episcopal Church, founded in 1634, just two years after the founding of the Maryland Colony. Robin had been a docent at Historic St. Mary's City, Maryland's first settlement. One of Robin's degrees is in history and living in one of the oldest parts of this nation... she never got over that thrill!

Growing up and living in the East, except for four years in California's high desert and a year in Mexico, Robin wasn't quite sure what living in the NW would be like. Within 12 months she no longer carried an umbrella, began to drink chai, stopped wearing nylons, no longer wore a blazer and Weejuns, diligently recycled, discovered organic, ate Dungeness crab and wild salmon, and tailored her wardrobe to shades of grey, black and brown.

That first year at St. Barnabas, Robin became a member of Christian Outreach and they joined a church coffee group. By the end of their second year, Doug was on the vestry and Robin began the JOY (Just Over Youth) lunches for older parish members who didn't get out as much to visit with old friends. This was an idea she brought from her former Maryland church and which was special to her heart. With the help of church friends the parish hall was converted to a quaint bistro atmosphere with cloth tablecloths and napkins adorning the tables, wine was served, and entertainment provided. The menus were circa 1950s. Chicken a la king was the very first entree. Remember Waldorf salad anyone? In those early days Robin bought the food, made the meals at their home and she and Doug transported the meals to the church.

Later years found Robin joining Deacon Dan's devotions at the MARC, Island Rehab, Madrona House, and Messenger House. She hopes that post COVID these devotions will resume even though Messenger House has closed and Deacon Dan has retired.

In the spring of 2018, Robin and three friends started the Women's Coffee, providing women at St. Barnabas a venue to get out and enjoy each other's company over a cuppa which met in person once a month until COVID. The coffee group meets over Zoom in these pandemic days.

St. Barnabas has been an important part of Robin's life out here in the NW along with the many friends she has made.