



The Munros

by Jeanne Munro

Jack and I were both born in Tacoma Washington and met when I was a social work major at the University of Washington and Jack had returned from Sacramento California to

take a job as a quality control inspector at Boeing. No truer polar opposites could have been attracted to each other. While having similar core values, our individual approach to life has created 51 unique years of marriage.

We have raised 3 highly successful daughters, lived a somewhat “hip” existence on a 30-acre farm in the early years and had two wonderful careers. For the past 44 years, Jack has owned and operated a pet, farm, garden, and feed store. I was the director of a Washington State agency for many years working with people with disabilities who were seeking independence and employment. I worked with congressional staff to help develop the Americans with Disabilities Act in the 1990’s.

We have traveled a lot (49 states, Mexico, Canada, and parts of Europe). We chose our Florida retirement home 20 years ago after our first visit to the beautiful Florida Keys. In Washington, we now live on 8 acres of gardens and garages (for Jacks cars) when not in the Keys. It is the best of both worlds as we enjoy the fruits of our labor, our children, grandchildren, and God’s Grace.

We chose Matecumbe UMC because it felt so much like our home church, Colby UMC. Both churches have strong common features:

- 1) Strong loving faithful people.
- 2) Both have had fantastic faith-building years along with prior years of conflict with pastor and church family.
- 3) Both have Biblically based, missionary focused, musical Pastors
- 4) Both have great music
- 5) Both have a group of strong women trying to keep things interesting
- 6) Both Churches have the same challenge---an older congregation trying to find ways to 21ST Century people.

We have always been active in our Church families. I have held every office in the 45-year membership at Colby including multiple years as Chair of the church council and Pastor Parish committee. Jack served as Trustee. At Colby, Jack is the thinker/doer/go to guy. I am the implementor/activist.

Covid-19 has had major impact on both churches. Because Washington was the 1st state with major impact, our Colby church was one of the first to do Facebook Sunday service including communion. Colby also figured out how to have church meetings on Zoom. Now we even do a prayer group and Sunday fellowship hour on Zoom. The Pacific NW Conference of Methodist churches (WA, OR, ID, AL) has directed all churches to develop a 4-phase reentry plan with social distancing, no singing etc. (You do remember the large church choir that practiced together then every member got Covid19 and several died). I am on the committee to develop Colby’s plan for specializing in alternative worship.

We have been trading information between the two churches to share experiences and to find new ideas. Both churches enjoy the Web services...in fact we do Sunday morning with one church and Sunday evening with the other. Colby has a daily devotional Facebook post done by a variety of people that followers seem to enjoy. And the weekly newsletter in both churches are a hit. Many people are working hard to make this time of Covid-19 a time of connecting with each other in alternative ways.

We all must remember that God is with us. His Church is not the building, it is the people of the faith community. If you want to connect to discuss alternative church activities, email me at jmunro47@yahoo.com

