



The **BILL GRAY** STORY

Our Spotlighthed Volunteer A faithful, long term, volunteer we have not featured previously. He is from the West-side of the state, so we don't see him in person frequently. Bill Gray has been working for PET/Trinity for about 11 years. He got interested when someone from Trinity presented the project at the Kent United Methodist Church Men's Group, and the extremely great need for what we can give to those downtrodden in our society. Bill and Ted Ripley jumped at the chance to use their woodworking skills to make a difference in the lives of others. He and Ted have not only made and delivered cart parts, but have also transported wood from Canada for the project. Bill has enjoyed woodworking since high school shop class, although he took some time off while his children were growing up. But as the kids left home, and when he retired, he got back into it with gusto! Before retiring, Bill worked for the Boeing Company in the Traffic Department, including facilitating airplane deliveries for foreign countries, and coordinating the Boeing rail-cars that bring in airplane parts to the Puget Sound area from other manufacturing areas in the U.S. Before that, he worked for Delta Airlines and the various airlines that merged into Delta. As you can see from his experience in "transportation" he is a natural for what needs to be done for those who aren't able to transport themselves. Bill has been married to his high school sweetheart, Pat, for 58 years. They have 2 children, Todd, who is a web developer for Go Daddy, and Christine, an administrator in the Highline School District in Seattle. They have 3 grandchildren. Bill has made beautiful and functional wood furniture for their home, their children's homes, and for friends and relatives. He is the go-to woodworker at his church and has resized and remade a historic pulpit, a welcome desk for the entrance, a wood facade for the sanctuary, and wooden crosses for an auction fund-raiser. He and Ted Ripley (that's Ted on the left and Bill. They both look pretty serious, but they are a great team) have made a video called Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure, which they show in church once a year to raise funds for Trinity. Money raised so far totals several thousand dollars. Their video name comes from the 1989 American science fiction comedy film; "a supremely silly story" one critic says. Even after watching several scenes from the movie, your newsletter editor says the Bill and Ted video they show in their church is Much Much better. A link to it is: <https://kentmethodist.com/mens-group>. Bill's wife says that his happy place is his shop



and he gets a huge amount of joy from his Trinity work, knowing that what he does changes the lives of many throughout the world. He may be quiet, but his work is extremely vital for us to keep helping the down-and-out of society. We appreciate him so much.

Bill on the right, buddy Ted Ripley on the left.