

Roots and Wings St. Philip's Anglican Church

You may know of the Camino de Santiago (or Way of Saint James) as pilgrimage routes that lead to the tomb of Saint James in Spain. These routes begin all across Europe and have been walked as pilgrimages for hundreds of years. Nowadays, there are nine main Camino routes that begin in France, Portugal, and Spain. At St. Philip's in Milford, we have three congregants who have walked the Camino, and for two of them, they completed their third walk this past Fall. Here is the "Proust Quiz" put to Paula and Bruce Walker.

What attracted you both to walking the Camino?

Bruce: I like to travel and I like to walk.

Paula: The fact that the Camino is a pilgrimage and has such a long history makes it attractive to me. I like to be outdoors and I like to walk.

When was your first walk?

Paula: Our first walk was in 2015 from September 5 to October 13. We walked 800 kilometers from St. Jean-Pied-de-Port to Santiago de Compostela. It took us 39 days. We walked about 25 km over the Pyrenees from St. Jean-Pied-de-Port to Roncesvalles. It was quite a climb and took us over 13 hours! We ended up sleeping in a shipping container

that night that they had set up to accommodate the late arrival pilgrims. Dinner was out of a vending machine that night! A special remembrance for us both is our stay at Ermita de San Nicholas after just over two weeks of walking. We met Ellen from Australia and we still keep in touch with her. We even walked with her at times this past walk in Portugal and Spain! The main building had no hydro and we were told St. Francis of Assisi stayed there when he walked the Camino in 1412. We had a communal dinner and breakfast and a service where they even washed our feet. After dinner people from different countries all had to sing, even us!



Paula and Bruce Walker during their 2022 walk, behind A Ferida.

Tell us about your second walk.

Bruce: Our second walk was also the Camino Frances. Again, it was 800 kms and this time we took 40 days from September 6 to October 15, 2018. We started in St. Jean-

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