



RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

Jane Conner

Born into a musical family in Sullivan, Indiana, Jane Adams gave flute lessons as a teenager before studying music education at Indiana State Teachers College, where she pledged Chi Omega. After earning a master's degree and attending two semesters at the University of Michigan, she began her career in Highland, Indiana. In 1965, she joined the music staff at the ISU Laboratory School teaching music to students from preschool through 12th grade. While at Lab School, she directed the Happy Wanderers Choir, and played flute in the Terre Haute Symphony for 9 years.

In 1970, she married Don Conner, Jr., an optometrist with four young children, whom she raised as her own. Two more sons would swell the family, which was recognizable about town in their pale-blue Volkswagen mini-bus, modified to accommodate the large crew on annual trips to the family lodge in northern Ontario.

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EDUCATION, PROFESSION & FAMIY

WHY WESTMINSTER?



When the Laboratory School closed in 1991, Jane taught college-level music education and music literature classes at ISU, retiring in 2000 as an associate professor of music education. In 1992, she received the Caleb Mills Distinguished Teaching Award from ISU and the Outstanding Elementary Music Educator Award from the Indiana Music Educators Association. She also directed children's choirs at Memorial United Methodist Church for 18 years and founded the Terre Haute Children's Choir, which she led for 9 ½ years, sustaining a laboratory-teaching model for ISU music students. The children's choir sang with the TH Symphony Orchestra four times. In retirement, Jane and Don built Lookout Farm at their home in northern Vigo County, where the extended family compound would grow to include four generations across five homesteads. The highlight of their agricultural endeavor included breeding and raising a herd of nearly two dozen alpacas. They competed in alpaca shows throughout the Midwest growing their herd through the birth of over twenty "crias".

Since moving to Westminster Village Jane stays busy with local arts, music, and civic organizations, and the activities of seven (of fourteen total) grandchildren who live nearby.

Their fresh vegetables and herbs, "Alpaca Gold" fertilizer, and fresh eggs became popular staples at the Downtown Farmers Market, and their organic basil was in demand by popular at Baesler's grocery. They were frequently assisted in their booth by numerous young grandchildren, who learned the finer details of alpaca husbandry and chicken wrangling between impromptu music lessons and tractor rides.

After Don's passing in 2014, Jane sold the alpacas and moved from the farm, and for several years she traveled extensively with her close friend, geographer Dorothy Drummond. Highlights were trips to Australia

Jane was a founding member of Farrington Grove Chorale, and is a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, where she has served on the Vestry and has sung in the choir.