

Profile Story

This week's feature : Don and Patty Peter



Patty and Don Peter are returning members who were welcomed at the November 23 service. Patty was born in Gnadenhutzen, Ohio and grew up with 3 sisters, 2 are nurses, one is deceased. She attended Gnadenhutzen Clay School . This small village was founded as a Moravian Missionary site in 1770's .Patty continued her education at St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing becoming a Registered Nurse. She studied at Bowling Green State University earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and The Medical College of Ohio receiving a Master of Science in Nursing.

Don also was born in Gnadenhutzen, Ohio and grew up with one brother. Don and Patty met in 1st grade! After graduation from Gnadenhutzen Clay School, he attended Capital University earning a Bachelor of Science. He continued his studies at Bowling Green State University earning a Master of Arts majoring in Mathematics.

Patty's job history includes church organist since age 15 and continued until 2017. Her experience in the field of nursing is very diverse and encompasses Staff Nurse, Nurse Manager, Clinical and Administrative hospital supervisor, Director of hospital education, University professor of nursing, Director of 8 children's programs in multi county health district. Don's work history includes Keystone High School, Lorain County Community College (LCCC) professor, Parish associate St. Paul's Lutheran in Savannah, GA.

Don and Patty have a very large and loving family that includes 4 children. Jon Peter is a retired chemist married to Teresa Peter as their daughter-in-law. Jon and Teresa are involved in many Prince of Peace ministries including the Traditional Service Choir. Don and Patty have 3 daughters including Gretchen Peter Frey working in IT training for physicians in a multi- hospital system in Chicago. Suzanne Peter Johnson is the Director of Food Services at FI Baptist hospital system. She also teaches Etiquette classes for NFL draftees. Julie Peter Simcox is Director of Food Safety at Louis Dreyfus, CO.

Grandchildren are widespread with many careers and connections. They include Nicholas Frey 42, Architect, Jennifer Frey Hernandez 38, Teaches Yoga, dietary consultant, Justin Malone 42, Ship Captain, Alexander Simcox 28, graduate St. Thomas Choir School Manhattan, chef in private business, Elizabeth Simcox 23, BS Wildlife and Fishery. Great Grand children are Ian Malone 18, scheduled to swim in the next Olympics, Riley Malone 16, George Frey 12, Alice Frey 9, George Frey 4, Hadley Hernandez 6, and Lily Hernandez 3.

Patty and Don were members here from approximately 1982-1986. They left when Patty took the organist position at Emmanuel Lutheran, Elyria. Then moved to Savannah in 1991 to St. Paul's Lutheran. Don's hobbies and interests include playing bridge, classical music while Patty spends her free time gardening and playing music.

Some things that people may not know about them are that Patty went on a Medical mission to Jamaica and sang many times in English cathedral choirs. Don was President of the faculty senate at LCCC, Chairman of the Ohio Mathematical Association, and led two church trips to Europe. Their travels together include almost all European countries (some multiple times) the Caribbean Islands, China, South America, and Africa.

It has been a pleasure to meet Don and Patty to write this story. They will bring many talents to our congregation with a strong commitment to service. Please offer a "Peace be with you" greeting next time you see them!

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter