

“Member Profile”

This week’s feature: Phil and Pat Sprague



Like many others, Phil and Pat Sprague came to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church when the congregation of St. Andrew Lutheran Church decided to discontinue and merge with the congregation of Prince of Peace. Actually, Phil headed up the committee that took on the responsibility to find a congregation to merge with and work out all the details.

Pat and Phil were born and grew up in Youngstown, OH on the very same street. Although Phil is a couple of years older, they have basically known each other their whole lives. Pat was raised as a Lutheran. Phil’s mother was born in England, and therefore, he was raised in the Episcopal Church. After public grade school and High School, they both attended Youngstown State University. Pat got her degree in Education, and Phil got his degree in Mechanical Engineering. They both graduated in the same year and got married just three days after graduation.

After graduation, Phil took a job with The Dow Chemical Company in their Packaging Division in Cleveland. Pat taught Kindergarten for a short time in Austintown, Ohio, until they moved to the Cleveland area. Pat then taught 2nd grade in Fairview Park. Eventually they started a family and Pat stayed at home with the kids. When she did finally go back to teaching, permanent teaching jobs were harder to find. She was a substitute teacher for a few years in both North Olmsted and Fairview Park. Pat did find a full-time teaching position at Ascension Lutheran Church School where she taught Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten. Dow Chemical sold their Packaging Division to American Can Company and they transferred Phil to one of their operations in Neenah, Wisconsin. After about a year, Pat and Phil decided they wanted to live back in the Cleveland

area. Phil accepted an engineering position with the C.A. Litzler Company in Cleveland where they design and manufacture industrial ovens and continuous processing systems. He took the required testing and obtained his Professional Engineering License. Except for a short stint with Anderson International in Strongsville, he returned to The C.A. Litzler Company where he served as Vice President of Engineering for more than 30 years. He currently holds several patents relating to carbon fiber production. After officially retiring he continues to do engineering consulting work with Litzler.

They have three boys. Phil, their oldest attended the University of Cincinnati and Ohio State where he received his Dental Degree. He is now a Pediatric Dentist in Sylvania, Ohio. He is married to Amy and has two sons, Conner who is 16, and Aaron who is 11. Their second son, Scott, who met his wife, Amanda, at Bowling Green State University, lives in Pennsylvania and works for Westfield Insurance Co. They have three children, Lauren, 18, Alex, 15, and Sarah, 12. Youngest son, Matt, met his wife, Jen, at Ohio State. They lived in Denver for about 12 years before moving back to Olmsted Falls. Matt is a Doctor of Physical Therapy and works in the Southwest General Hospital system in Home Health Care. By the way, Matt was a terrific soccer player, and while at Ohio State his team got to the NCAA tournament.

Phil has traveled a lot overseas with his jobs, and many times Pat went with him. Pat still loves to travel, although Phil has curtailed the business travel with his semi-retirement. They do, however, continue a family tradition of over 30 years, traveling to Nags Head on the North Carolina coast for a family get-together for a week each year.

Both Phil and Pat have been very active with both St. Andrew Lutheran Church and now Prince of Peace. Currently, Pat is involved with the quilting group and, with Phil, helps coordinate the Open Mic Nights and takes Communion to the Sunrise Nursing Home. She also finds time to read a lot. Phil also has been active on church council as President, and now coordinates POP's outreach efforts. Phil also loves to read, is an active photographer (once, having his own dark room), loves fishing and hunting, and is now into flying a radio-controlled model airplane. Phil is also interested in auto sports and assembled a replica Cobra.

We are certainly thankful that the Lord led Phil's Committee and the St. Andrew congregation to us at Prince of Peace. If you haven't met Phil and Pat, make sure you do. I know you will be impressed with these wonderful, caring folks, and my good friends for over 40 years.

By Dick Hardy, Profile Reporter