

ERC Clergy Couple's Retreat--Vol. 9, No. 3--January 16, 2015



Last weekend our Eastern Regional Conference (ERC) sponsored a winter retreat for pastoral couples. This annual event began back in the early 1980s. Linda and I have attended most of them. For us these get-away weekends provide a great break and a time to connect with friends and partners in ministry. The goal of the event is to strengthen pastoral marriages. Friday night and Saturday morning serve as workshops with group worship concluding the experience on Sunday morning. Of course there's always good food to go along with the fellowship. Barbara Harris, the executive assistant for the ERC, puts the weekend together and does a fabulous job.



Chuck Frank leads worship



Introduction to the retreat by Kevin Richardson

This year's place-of-choice was close home for many in beautiful Lancaster County, PA. We stayed at the Bird-in-Hand Family Inn which offered us an excellent continental breakfast buffet. The hotel also provided us with a large assembly room for our group activities and Sunday morning worship. Chuck Frank took care of the technology stuff, while Wayne and Elaine Good served as the retreat leaders. They serve our Newville, PA congregation.



The Goods shared a number of video clips to illustrate their points and provided "homework" exercises for couples to explore their

relationship dynamics. The three sessions were geared to renewing each couple's marriage covenant before God. As Wayne said, "Without a right vertical relationship, horizontal relationships (especially in a marriage) will be difficult." Friday and Saturday nights also incorporated a later evening time for fellowship and games.



Elaine and Wayne Good



After the Saturday morning session, everybody traveled to Shady Maple Smorgasbord for a meal of gargantuan proportions. Shady Maple is the mother of all such establishments in Lancaster County and likely across PA, if not the USA. Anyone who's been there will tell you so! As in life, it's all about the choices you make.



Wendy and Anthony Zumbo



However, the big treat of the weekend (other than spousal time together) was the Saturday afternoon visit to the Sight and Sound Theatre near Strasburg "where the Bible comes to life."



Statue in front of the Sight & Sound Theatre



The current drama is "Moses," which I found as an interesting contrast to the current Hollywood remake of the Exodus story. Sight and Sound certainly did a much better rendition of the burning bush than the movie, not to mention the portrayal of God. In any case the stage sets were outstanding and the special effects impressive, especially Moses' flight into the wilderness and the parting of the sea.



The burning bush (photo from the Sight and Sound Website)



A scene from the "Moses" production (photo from the Sight and Sound Website)



Parting of the Red Sea (photo from the Sight and Sound Website)

It's amazing to me that forty years ago when Linda and I ministered at Maytown, Glenn Eshelman came to our church and presented a sight and sound program using two slide projectors with a turntable and microphone. From this small start grew the world-impact ministry seen today at theatres in Lancaster County, PA and Branson, MO. I sat awestruck as the show unfolded and praised God for the hundreds of thousands of people Sight and Sound ministries now reach every year.



The Sight & Sound Theatre

Saturday evening we, really Linda, joined the crew in the lobby for game time. I sat around and visited with the non-game players.



Sunday morning after a plenteous breakfast, everybody gathered for worship in our designated meeting room. Chuck Frank used several praise videos to lead the group in worship with Wayne Good



Sunday morning message by
Wayne Good

bringing the morning message. It was a great ending to a super weekend. Catching up on life with friends in ministry and meeting new members of the CGGC family is one of the most enjoyable parts of my work.

Over the weekend I heard many God stories that just warmed and encouraged my heart. Let Jon and BJ Neely tell you the miraculous story of their son Steve's deliverance from certain death. Ask Darrel or Teresa Schrade to share how God is working in their little country church. Do be in prayer for George and Rebecca Spangler as they received a call on Saturday that Rebecca's father, Donald Reinhard, died unexpectedly that day. When the group came together Sunday, Kevin Richardson led us all in prayer for Rebecca's family. God is good, and it's a joy to be together in His name and fulfill the law of Christ.

ONE Mission Together with you,
Ed
Soli Deo Gloria!

The Spring Women's Retreat is just around the corner!

Ladies, join us at this year's CGWM Women's Retreat! God's love has infinite height, depth, width and length! He has called us to seek His love above all else and share His love everywhere we go. Through the teaching, music, fellowship and unique experiences, we hope that you may come to know His love to the fullest and be able to better share that love with others.

Register online or print off a form at the [CGWM website](#). A video is also available to share with the ladies in your congregation.



Register at www.WomenForGod.org
or call Becca Shrom at (513) 478-5546
Find us on Facebook: CGWMMarchRetreat