



PME CONNECTIONS

Volume 3

Issue 1

Spring 2009



Dear Ones,

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Do not worry about

anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” -Philippians 4:4-7

Boy, those words just jumped out at me (Gary) this morning as I read the Daily Lectionary. We have had more requests for prayers this past several months than I can remember. I (Ann) have had my prayer bowl (where I keep all our prayer requests so we can remember them) full. Both of us have an active prayer life, mostly of thanksgiving, which we feel is directly the result of being blessed by God. And then there are the prayers for healing and intervention. We have had a lot of them also.

At our last National Board meeting held in March, we judged that God had started to answer our prayers for

helping us to stop the decline and bring a stabilization to PME. Our finances, which had been in a critical state mid-2008 have strengthened a little. We still need prayers in this area, but we judge they are being answered. We still need to pray for renewed vitality and energy, and we need to pray for our community in Southern California that has decided to take a breather in giving Weekends and send inquiries instead to the other faith expressions. Pray that someday, God will bless them with Weekends again.

We ask all who are reading this to pray for the Nominating Committee formed, and for the couples asked to discern for National Leadership positions. And pray for our Board as we select two couples this summer to lead us for the next three years.

So... we judge that we are in good hands. We have faith that God is indeed with us in this ministry that has touched so many married couples. As we close this note to you all, we just want to share again, “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

Consider Yourselves Hugged,

Gary & Ann Long

CELEBRATIONS

If you or some other encountered couple you know is celebrating a special wedding anniversary, send us an article and a photo. We'd like to honor every encountered couple that has been married 25 years or more (geneandnancy@presby-me.org).

PRAYERS

If you have a prayer request or a praise that you would like us to print in the next newsletter, send it to "geneandnancy@presby-me.org. The deadline for each issue is the last day of the month before it is posted (i.e., the next deadline is July 31).

DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

Dialogue (10/10) isn't intended to solve problems; it is to help us understand each other better. This helps us stay in relationship when problems do occur.

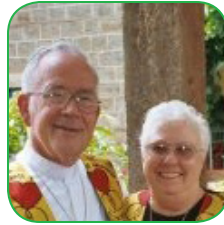
1. How do I feel when I know I told you something but you say that I didn't? HDMAMMF?
2. Can we afford financially to take our usual vacation this year? HDIFAMA?
3. If we can't take a vacation, how do we explain to our children without frightening them about their security? HDIFAMA?
4. My heart still beats a little faster when I see you. HDIFAMA?



Meet the National Board & Committees



Gary ♥ Ann Long
Executive Lay Couple
Houston, Texas



Walt ♥ Marlene Estelle
Executive Clergy Couple
Spokane, Washington



Jack ♥ Penny Runyan
Executive Secretary Couple
Port St. Lucie, Florida



Herb ♥ Jean Ward
Executive Finance Couple
Mt. Prospect, Illinois



Greg ♥ Gayle Brown
Northwest Region Lay Couple
Spokane, Washington



Roger ♥ Peggy Eddy
SouthEast Region Lay Couple
Kingwood, Texas.



Gene ♥ Nancy Robinson
National Newsletter Couple
Apple Valley, California



Al ♥ Dottie Lund
NorthEast Region Lay Couple
Wilmington, Delaware



Lee ♥ Ruth Saegesser
National Outline Couple
Williamsburg, Virginia



Bill ♥ Carolyn McQuiston
Resource & Awareness Couple
North East, Maryland



Nora Goetz
National RENEW
Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania



Jim ♥ Susie Marshall
Lafayette, Indiana
National Supply Couple



Mike ♥ Martha Bodlovich
National Outreach Couple
San Pedro, California

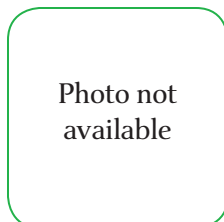


Photo not
available

Joe Paquette
Webmaster
Renton, Washington

Marriage Prayer

*God be in our marriage
And so abide with us
That we may dwell together
In harmony and trust*

*God be in our marriage
And in our dreams and plans
That we may build together
A Christian home that stands*

*God be in our marriage
And our lives blend together
That all may hear our song
That marriage is forever.*

Author unknown



TELL US

Please share with us how Marriage Encounter has been valuable in your marriage. Send an email to "geneandnancy@presby-me.org" including your names, date you were married, when and where you went on a Weekend and where you live. Attach a photo of yourselves and/or your family.

2009 PME WEEKENDS

NOTE: Due to scheduling constraints, all registrations must be received at least two weeks before the scheduled weekend. Thank you!

Brandywine, DE (Mid-Atlantic) TBD 2009	
Houston, TX	August 14 - 16, 2009
Spokane, WA	March 13 - 15, 2009
also Community Deeper	June 12 - 14, 2009
Florida	Early 2010

Online registration is available for all PME Weekends at "presby-me.org" and with encountered couples in your community.

If PME dates and locations do not work with your schedule, go to the Worldwide Marriage Encounter website: www.WWME.org.

Most Weekends for other faith expressions are listed on that website, along with many other useful links.



MANY THANKS

To the many couples who continue to support Presbyterian Marriage Encounter financially and with your prayers, thank you.

With your help we continue to change the world one couple at a time.

MISSION STATEMENT

"Presbyterian Expression of Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission of renewal in the church and change in the world is to assist couples to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Christian experience and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle."

MARRIAGE MINISTRY NEWS

By Carolyn and Bill McQuiston

Read my mind! Has your spouse ever reacted totally inappropriately when you've been upset?

Maybe he or she has tried to comfort you when you really just wanted to be alone. Or maybe your spouse has left you alone when you wanted a great big hug. Does your spouse never remember your birthday the way that would just thrill you? Maybe you would love to have your husband have roses delivered to your office. Or maybe you would really enjoy having your wife throw a big barb-b-q and she be the one to do the grilling. Your spouse probably wants to make you happy and react appropriately to every situation.

But how can your spouse make you happy when only you know what will please you at any given moment. It's your job to let your spouse know how to make you happy. Tell your partner what you want and then be happy when you get what you asked for. It's as simple as that.

Oh yes, it would be very romantic, just like in the movies, if your spouse could swoop in and surprise you with just the thing you want or react in just the way you are looking for, without prompting. But this is not the movies (where actors go by the script, by the way).

This is the real world. So be specific. When it comes to telling your spouse how to react to your feelings, you will need to be specific each time because we don't always want the same reaction. For example, "I feel lousy. I need a hug" or "I feel lousy. I want to be left alone for a while" or "I feel lousy. I want to talk while you comfort me, but I don't want any input-I just need for you to listen."

Being specific will not only give you the best chance of getting you what you want, but it will also give your spouse the confidence of knowing they're doing exactly the right thing. You both win!

And try to communicate completely. For example, if you are feeling badly and you ask your spouse to pick up dinner—if that's all the directions you give, be happy with whatever is brought home. If you particularly want pizza, ask for pizza. If it needs to be a large pizza with extra cheese, then ask for a large pizza with extra cheese. When each of you says what you mean and mean what you say, you'll find that you both will get more of what you want much more often in your marriage!

And what about surprises? Once you have more concrete information about your spouse's likes and dislikes, you can throw in a surprise from time to time that is more likely to hit the target.

(Based on MASTERING MARRIAGE by Michael and Brown as seen in "Marriage Magazine" Summer 2008.)



NATIONAL BOARD NOTES

On March 21 and 22 the PME National Board met by teleconference using SKYPE. Here are some highlights of the meeting:

A motion passed to allow communities to charge for Weekends up front or during "Sharing the Dream". Either way, the \$45.00 registration fee still applies.

As stated in the PME By-Laws, candidates for National Executive Lay and Clergy Couples are to be presented to the current National Board by September 1 with the election to be held no later than last meeting of the calendar year. A Nominating Committee was appointed.

This newsletter is not just for encountered couples but may be shared with churches and potential Weekend couples.

Kenya and Cameroon communities continue to grow in numbers as they hold Weekends, and there are 12 active Love Circles in Kenya. Ninety-seven talks have been workshopped by USA presenting couples.

Southwest Region reported they cancelled their 2008 Weekends for lack of registrations and have no Weekends scheduled for 2009. They will continue to support PME nationally and other WWME faith expressions in Southern California.

The movie, "Fireproof", is recommended viewing for couples. It has played in theaters and is readily available on DVD.

The next PME National Board Meeting is scheduled for August 12 and 13.