

JED & SUSIE DETRICH

Members since 1973

James E. “Jed” Detrich

Birth Date:

March 25, 1943

Place of Birth:

Chambersburg, PA

Military Service:

U.S. Army

Susanne “Susie” Detrich

Birth Date:

September 19, 1946

Place of Birth:

Chambersburg, PA

Did You Know?

Jed’s mom and all six of her siblings graduated from college, thanks to the generosity of a wealthy uncle who paid their way.

Susie attended the original King Street Elementary School from grades 1-3, which had been used as a hospital during the Civil War.

The Roxbury Holiness Camp was built on land donated by Susie’s great-grandfather.

Favorite Hymns:

It Is Well With My Soul

The Old Rugged Cross



Jed was born during WWII, while his dad was serving in the navy. He was assigned to an oil tanker hauling oil from Venezuela across the Atlantic Ocean to France and later through the Panama Canal to Fiji, Guam, and other locations in the Pacific. Jed’s dad was in command of the soldiers who manned the only gun on the ship. Miraculously, the ship and the crew survived the war.

Susie’s parents were younger than Jed’s. By the time her dad completed his training in the Air Force to become a B24 tail-gunner, the war was over, and he returned home. Susie’s dad worked at the Pennsylvania Railroad in the roundhouse on Grant Street. Susie knew he was laid off at times when she was a little girl. During those times, she remembers the kindness of her great-uncle, who owned the Dairimaid. She said it seemed like the bill sometimes wouldn’t appear and often there was a pint of chocolate milk in the box for her. It helped that her mother managed Haines Shoe Store downtown on Main Street and later managed another one in Shippensburg. Susie has fond memories of her parents taking her fishing, on frequent visits to her grandfather’s farm to spend time with the many cousins, and to the beach in Ocean City, NJ.

One of Jed’s favorite memories growing up was being on the swim team at the YMCA. He remembers his grandmother walking him to the YMCA to buy a membership shortly after it opened. His mother insisted that Jed should join the swim team for some fun. Jed says that the rest of the time his dad worked him fairly hard. When they ran out of jobs to do at their own house, his dad arranged for him to mow grass, dig fence posts, paint, and do other odd jobs for the neighbors. He and his dad built the family

cabin in the early 1950's. Without electricity on the property, they did all of the work by hand, including sawing boards and mixing cement.

Although Jed and Susie grew up on the same street and only one house apart, they didn't have much of a connection during their younger years. It wasn't until after they had both graduated from high school, that Jed's friend suggested Susie as a date for a party they were attending. At the time, Jed had just been drafted into the army and was home on leave between basic training and MP training. Susie was in her freshman year as a day-student at Shippensburg University, where she would graduate after earning a double-major in social studies education and library sciences. She worked for the CASD for 27 years, although she also stayed home with their daughters, Jennifer and Ellen, in their younger years.

After MP training, Jed went to Stuttgart, Germany, where he served as the personal driver for the company commander. He and Susie kept up a written correspondence during his time overseas. Jed remembers it as being boring sometimes, although he did have the opportunity to go through Checkpoint Charlie to cross into East Berlin, Germany. During the final year of his military service, Jed was offered an option to volunteer for the war in Vietnam. He considered going, but because he had less than a year of service left, he would have had to sign on for an extra year of enlistment. Instead, he decided to return home to civilian life and his previous job with the United Telephone Company. He retired later from CenturyLink after 36 years.

Jed attended FUMC as a little boy. His most vivid memories are of his grandmother, Esther, taking him to worship and Sunday School every week and the way he felt singing his favorite song, "Sunshine Mountain." He also remembers his dad being involved in the church with leadership boards and as one of the superintendents of the Men's Bible Class. He oversaw the Sunday school class every third Sunday. Jed, as a teenager, had to help on those Sundays by reading scriptures and leading prayers for his dad. He was uncomfortable having to stand up and speak in front of that large of a group of men. Over time, Jed found he prefers to serve the church through wood-working. Both he and his dad have made various pieces of furniture that are used throughout the church, including lecterns, bookcases, cabinets, and recently, a custom-made table skinny enough to fit in the window of the Connections Cafe.

Susie grew up as a member of Second Lutheran Church. She and Jed were married there on July 15, 1967, by Rev. Paul B. Lucas, who also happened to be Jed's uncle. A few years later Susie transferred her membership to FUMC. Over the years she has been involved with VBS, the Thursday Night Program, Chancel Choir, and overseeing the church library.

Jed and Susie both talk about John Morris as being influential in their faith journey. Jed remembers him from the Men's Bible Class, and Susie loved his Bible studies. Susie also talks about how much she enjoyed the Spares and Pairs Sunday School class and the friendships created there. The Church Bazaars were held twice a year, and the class would make dozens of sticky buns, showing up at the church by 5:00 a.m. on those days to have them ready. The sticky buns became so popular that they soon had to take pre-orders in order to have enough. Jed and Susie also remember hosting the closing day of VBS in their yard one year. To illustrate the lesson about Jesus' teaching from the boat on the water, Rev. Robert Reasey, the pastor at the time, taught the children from a boat floating in the Falling Spring Stream behind their house.

Susie remembers a time in the late 1970's when God helped her through a difficult experience. She was driving home from her parents' house in Delaware, when the family station wagon stopped working properly and could no longer drive above 45 mph. Susie was terrified to travel that slowly on the highways and the Bay Bridge with her two young daughters in the backseat. So, she decided to take country roads most of the way home instead. Susie says, "That was the longest day of my life. I was so relieved to get those two kids home safely."

Although Jed provided an important service to our community, by helping to install 911 systems in our area and others, when asked the work he is most proud of, Jed points at Susie. They both talk about how proud they are of their daughters, Jennifer and Ellen, and their grandchildren.

Jed's advice to younger generations is: "Be honest because nothing gets you in more trouble than dishonesty. Stay out of trouble. And treat others the way you want to be treated." Susie offers this: "Don't be so hard on yourself, and be willing to try new things."