

Our Green Lake Story: Anne & David Grieger

“Ah, we’re home again,” that’s how our then eight-year-old son Matt described driving through the magnificent iron gates of the American Baptist Assembly back in 1991. He was simply voicing what our whole family felt each summer as we returned to the place we had grown to love. As David served churches in Michigan, Kansas, and Indiana, and now as we have retired in Maryland, the ABA/GLCC has been the one constant in our lives.

Churches are responsible for our separate, initial introductions to Green Lake. In 1973 David, as a seminary intern, was sent to the Christian Education Conference, and I was a high school graduate in 1972, freshly returned from a mission trip to Haiti, when I was asked to attend the Missions Conference by my home church. 1974 found us both on summer staff. I vividly remember square dancing in William Carey barn with Fred Pillsbury as my partner, rides on the Captain Bickel, lobby sings, meeting a wonderful man named David, and being a lifeguard at the pool behind RWI and off the island. David remembers meeting Caroline Jungwirth, working under the leadership of Larry Janssen and Patrick Murphy, and summer staff picnics at the Tea House. But David likes to say that the highlight of that summer was meeting me.

Two years later we married and embarked on what was to become a lifelong love affair with Green Lake. Over the next 30 years churches we served sent children, youth and adults to Christian Education Conferences, Music Conferences, Missions Conferences, work trips, Winter Blast, Family Life Conferences and Quest.

As a family we attended at least one conference every year, usually followed by family vacation time. I remember camping in Tower View when our children were in elementary school. Each morning they would hike up the hill, David leading the way, and I could hear them singing “hi-ho, hi-ho, it’s off to the Children’s Center we go,” until their voices faded in the distance. Over the years our children matriculated from the brown door all the way to the red door; they loved all the staff and programming of the Children’s Center and couldn’t wait to return the next year.

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When in our 30s and 40s, the running joke between us was that when we became “old and retired” we would return as volunteers to attempt to repay all that Green Lake had given us. Life has come full circle and that’s exactly what we have done the past five summers. David is currently serving his second stint on the GLCC Board of Directors. He is also the campground ranger, and was aided by our therapy dog Toby from 2015-18. I manage the Padelford Country Store. We thank God often that he brought us together in that holy place and that we can help others in their closer walk with God.

