

Honoring our “Super Seniors” at Covenant

The Nurture & Outreach Commission, Elders, and Deacons are pleased to present a new project where we wish to honor our over 80-year-old members as our “Super Seniors”. The idea for this project came from the family of **Bernie Hatten** in celebration of his 100th birthday. They submitted some interesting facts that not many people know about him:

Bernie Hatten was a mechanical engineer and developed components for the first nuclear submarine (the Nautilus). He was there when the submarine was launched in 1954.

He was also involved with the production of the Sherman Tanks used during WWII.

Bernie was an honor student at Ohio State and was one of the few that got to live in the honor dorms which were located inside the Ohio State Stadium.

He loved Ballroom Dancing and his secret to a long life is to keep walking, laugh often, rest or nap when you can, and treat yourself to ice cream!

We have been highlighting several seniors in a weekly email to our members and have asked them to share some interesting facts about themselves that other members may not know about them. This file of all our “Super Seniors” will be maintained and we will add each week’s new seniors alphabetically to it. We hope you enjoy this project as much as we have enjoyed talking with them!

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Nan Davidson at 614-893-8824.

Here are our honored Super Seniors:



Jerry Annis was born and raised on a farm in southern Ohio. He has a twin sister and had brothers who were also twins, as well as an older brother. Living on a farm required much hard work, and this is where he learned the value of working hard.

He attended schools in Waverly, Ohio. He enjoyed school because being somewhat isolated on the farm, school was a big part of his social life. After graduation he entered OSU.

Jerry worked his way through college and after six years he graduated in 1964 with a degree in Secondary Education. The day after graduation he and Dianne were married, and they have been married for 57 years. Jerry received his Master of Science degree in 1966 and continued graduate courses working toward certification in Curriculum Development and School Administration. He spent his entire educational career at Brookhaven High School in Columbus.

He and Dianne have three sons and seven grandchildren, and they have attended many different sports activities over the years!

After Jerry retired from Columbus Public Schools and Dianne retired from Upper Arlington Public Library, they did more traveling and particularly enjoyed the western part of the United States. Typically, they would fly out and rent a car for sightseeing. They have also enjoyed travels to Hawaii, Alaska, cruising through the Panama Canal, and visiting the Mayan ruins in Belize, all of which they would do again, if they were able.



Marty Armstrong's father was very witty. If there were a brunt of any joke it was on him, or maybe my mother, or my sister Mary Hemmer, or me. Everyone loved him and wanted to be anywhere he was.

Normally, after the eleven o'clock service of our Iowa Presbyterian church, many members would meet for lunch at Bishop's Cafeteria. Even there, with a large crowd, we were all laughing more than eating. Unfortunately, Dad died at age 43.

My daughter Anne and one of Mary's children Jeff inherited some of their grandfather's sense of humor.

I love our family get togethers because we laugh and laugh, enjoying our lives together. Even the next day, we feel a sense of well-being. Picture, if you will, joy!



Bob Crook says that the event that had the most influence on him was when he married Betty!

His hobbies are golf and poker, and he thinks the invention that changed society most is television.

If money and time were no object, he would like to visit Wurzburg, Germany, where he served in WWII.



Esther Curtis always liked to swim. When at the University of Nebraska, she was a part of a club that did routines in the water and performed at programs. They didn't have great costumes—just black suits.

Just out of college with a dietetics degree, she was hired by The Southern Counties Gas Company as their Home Service Director. This was her favorite job as she would call on new appliance owners. Being a gourmet cook, she would do cooking demonstrations for clubs using the company's equipment. Everyone loved her pies!

Esther grew up in Grand Island, Nebraska. After marrying her husband (this was the time when it was considered wise to change leadership positions), they moved many times, which meant she had many different jobs. She lived in Pamona, California, St. Louis, Kansas City, New Orleans, Salem, Ohio, and then Columbus. She was a teacher in the Farmer in the Dell pre-school and played the piano for their lessons. She taught Perception Classes under the Title 1 program and worked in a loan department.

She became interested in stocks at a time when stock clubs were very popular. She liked doing the research and advising members of several stock clubs whether to buy a stock.



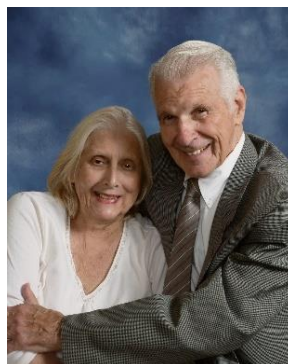
John Emrick has been a bicycle enthusiast for many years. He usually bicycled daily a good five miles from his home to various locations around Upper Arlington. He often used the trail along the Scioto River, exiting at Nottingham Road for the shorter ride, or making it a 9-mile trip to bicycle as far as the Lane Road exit, then up "the" hill on his return home.

Even though John and Marianne had travelled to China earlier and had seen many interesting cities and sights, the trip to Egypt, however, left a lasting serious and funny memory. John was very impressed by the sheer size of the pyramids and the wonder of how the people of that time were able to build these marvels. His group was able to climb to the top of the pyramid on its inside to reach a room holding a stone sarcophagus which was guarded by two soldiers.

While still in Egypt and now at the Cairo Museum, John and his group crossed paths with former President Jimmy Carter, his wife, and entourage. For the evening performance, John and his group sat just a few rows behind President Carter, and John was able to get close enough to take a photo of him.



Barbara Golan was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska. She remembers going to the dances at the Lincoln Air Force Base during WWII - often the last stop before soldiers shipped overseas. She and her husband moved to Columbus when he was hired by Scotts. She always wanted to fly, and so became a pilot when she was 50. She taught flying at OSU for several years. She and her husband had a home in Florida in a fly-in community, with a car parked in the front of the house and the plane in the hangar in the back. One of her favorite trips was her flight to Alaska. She sold her plane when she was 70. (She's now 93.)



C. DeVere Johnson will never forget his “mamaw” who pretty much brought him up from the time his family moved from Keokuk, Iowa, to Columbus, Ohio. Then later, his two in-laws Dorothy and Charles Cottingham were his family ... all are now gone but never forgotten. He was a Sigma Phi Epsilon at Ohio State with his son Jim and his father-in-law Charles.

De had an incident while flying with the Navy and surviving the crash in a P2 Neptune. The Skipper of the squadron was asleep in a night landing operation, but he was responsible for putting the propellers in reverse upon landing and accelerating the engine to full throttle to stop the airplane. He ran through the entire landing area. The executive officer stopped the plane but lost the right wing, right landing gear, and the right tire exploded into fire. The crew bailed out carrying fire extinguishers and getting away from the crash. Only minor scrapes and bruises were on the lucky men.

De has had several incidents with fires. His wife Nancy and he witnessed the family paper company fire, a possible boat fire on Lake Erie when a mechanic messed with their boat motor, and the largest of a GMC Motor Home that blew up on Rt. 90 New York going to son's graduation in Kents Hill, Maine.

It's all about family for De and there were so many fun positive times: all trips with our German “son” Axel in Germany, England, Austria, and Switzerland. Axel made us very happy as he became a brother to our American son Jim. My daughter Jodi (and her family) run a dog and cat sanctuary in Plain City. Our daughter Kathy Lauren and her five, living in Chapel Hill, N.C., are very close to us as are Jim's sons Connor and Corey Miles.

Nancy C. Johnson grew up in her grandparent's home with a wonderful mother and doting dad. She attended Columbus School for Girls and Ohio State, and is an Alpha Phi, where she was awarded a teaching certificate. This was and still is her second love as Family comes first.

She has been very lucky in having a devoted family of 3 children (we do not differentiate between half and wholes when it comes to children). Of Jim, Jayne, and Jodi, they have 7 grandchildren who have produced 12 ½ great grandchildren for us to spoil. Currently four are in town. One is a 1st Lt in the Army, who is based in and a resident of Alaska. Kathy and her five are living in N.C.; “She is my soul who does all the research for De and me. My son Jim and his wife Lorraine are looking after us in this age of virus and turmoil.”

Nancy does remember both of her grandmothers for they were very strong ladies as was her mother. Each had a special “thing” they gave her--to grow up to be the person she now is. Her husband De has been her rock, her caretaker. She feels that perhaps with the 2 of them, they have one whole person.

De and Nancy have loved children their whole life. They did an ice hockey team with CAHA, as well as a referee school, parties, advised more children than they can remember (but they remind them now and then), taken in children as foreign students away from any home, Columbus kids, their own children have lived with them and had their families with them and all teaching as they lived. She says one item has stuck that Katie Kinnison taught our 3-year-old 10 years ago: "It is what it is, but you can't throw a fit." It works on so many levels...



When **Gerlinde Lott** arrived in New York Harbor on March 4, 1959, on the USS United States, having stopped at Le Havre and Plymouth before crossing the big pond, her plan was to stay two to three years to improve her English and possibly see a bit of this huge country. However, the plan changed drastically when John Lott entered the picture; they were married 52 years when he died.

Today, Gerlinde is a volunteer driver with Syntero and the Clintonville Resource Center, taking clients to their doctors' appointments.



Jane Morton has been a member of Covenant since 1979. She has been active in the Miriam Circle and Covenant Presbyterian Women's Association, having served as Moderator for two years. She has helped make sandwiches and delivered them to the homeless group in Central Ohio and, with a partner, delivered food from our SOS Food Pantry.

She served as a Deacon and an Elder, chairing the All Church Nominating Team, and was on the Pastor Search Committee chaired by Roland DeMott. Being active in church activities has always been important to her as she comes from a long line of United Presbyterian family members.

Jane grew up on a farm in Guernsey County, Ohio, where she was a member of the Antrim Modern Priscillas 4-H Club for 10 years.

Paul Morton grew up in the Methodist Church, but, historically, many of his ancestors were Quakers. It was a smaller change when he joined the Presbyterian Church about three years after marrying Jane. He always thought the polity of the Methodist Church was a mystery and liked the clarity of the Presbyterian polity.

He grew up (as far as one is grown up at age 16) in Freeport, Ohio. After his sophomore year in high school, he accepted the offer of a scholarship paid by the Ford Foundation to go to Oberlin College. This was a trial with 200 students a year for four years to see if 16-year-olds could do college work and whether they would be more likely to return to college after the proposed universal military training that was being discussed in Congress around 1950. That was never adopted, but the Ford Foundation supported them for the full four years. Then he came to Ohio State for medical school.

Jane and he were married the day after he graduated from Ohio State. They went to Los Angeles where he completed his internship and the first year of his residency. The last two years of his internal medicine residency were completed at Riverside Methodist Hospital.

The most memorable place that Jane and he visited came in 50 parts--they visited all 50 State Capitals. They found great variety in them, although there were many with common themes, and they all serve the same basic functions.



Joanne Murchake, a member of Covenant for 50 plus years, gives these words of advice: “We have to believe. We have to be kind, good, and loving to each other.”

She married her husband and was transferred to San Juan, Puerto Rico, where their four daughters were born. Joanne was raised Lutheran, and her husband was raised Catholic. She recalls the church in San Juan as being multi-denominational as all religions were represented. When they moved to Columbus and went to their first service at Covenant, Joanne’s husband remarked that “they were home”. She loves the church, which she admits has evolved with the times.

She enjoys doing needlework, piece quilts, and painting. Joanne is one the four church members who made the banners that currently grace our sanctuary.

Joanne and one of her daughters travelled extensively over the years, but, of course, her favorite place was San Juan due to her wonderful memories. She would love to travel to Ireland as her grandfather is from there, but she is only able to travel vicariously with her brother.

Life has changed a lot since Joanne was a child. Her parents were her strongest influences in her life, which was simpler as there were no televisions, cell phones, nor computers. “Why we’ve gone to the moon!”



Bette Purdy will always remember Rev. Perry, the minister who baptized her when she was 12 years old. She remembers that he always came out to their farm for dinner and was so very kind to her family. When she was 12 years old, she was asked to speak in front of her mom’s church group. She never liked public speaking as that was hard for her and she was very nervous. She did get through it and remembers telling the ladies about Jesus.

She lived through World War II and the Korean War. World War II had a tremendous effect on her life as her father served in the war and was gone from the family for four years. We were in the Great Lakes region when my husband served in the Korean War.

The most memorable place we visited was Australia as the people were so kind, and if money, time, and pandemics were no object, I would love to go to Australia and Ireland again.

If she were able to have dinner with any three people living or dead, they would be her mom, her dad, and her grandmother. They had such wonderful laughs when they were eating. They were such fun!

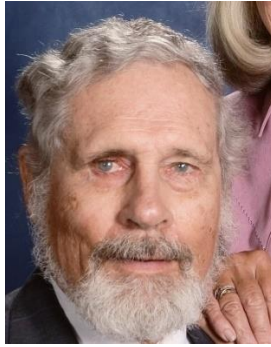
Her marriage to Clark has had the most influence on her life, and her happiest moments are the birth of her 3 children. They have nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Her favorite job was running the payroll department for Clark's company.

Clark Purdy was born and raised in Michigan and shares how he left a secure company and took a chance to starting a business on his own. His wife Bette was the backbone of his success, and she supported his decision every step of the way. His favorite job was being President and CEO of C.C.C. Rent A Car and Airport Parking.

The most interesting person he met was his father-in-law as he farmed, mined, served in the military, and flew his own plane. He also raised a beautiful daughter!

Clark says his heart surgeries at the Cleveland Clinic were the most influential event in his life, and he is forever grateful. His proudest moments are raising three children and marrying his wonderful wife. His words of advice are "Whatever I've accomplished in my life, I owe to other people." He says that "Technology" is what has changed the most in his lifetime. "It is sooo hard on the elderly!!"

He would like to have dinner again with his mom, his dad, his best friend John Roy, and his sister. They were all so influential to the person that he is, and he misses them so much.



Jack (John) Sanders was born and grew up in Cincinnati. He attended Woodward High School, but it has since been demolished. He received a Degree in Electrical Engineering from Indiana Institute of Technology and was an engineer for Columbus Southern Power, AEP, and Westerville Electric.

A word of advice he would like to give is to “do it now”, don’t wait ‘til you retire. Live life to the fullest today.

Jack and his wife Diana have been married for 60 years and have had several different hobbies over the years. They raced a Comet sailboat, camped in 49 of the 50 states, and bicycled in 49 of the 50. Their current hobbies include kayaking and camping.



David Timmons traveled with his beloved life partner Rachel to all the states and 50 countries of which Britain was always a favorite.

His hobbies include travel, fishing, and vintage auto restoration (showing and touring). Also, he devotes a lot of time listening to and attending performances of classical and sacred music and opera.

A significant influence was his father and business partner for his example of integrity, ambition, compassion and service to community and church.

David's position as a young army officer in headquarters in the Korean War entailed responsibilities far beyond his rank which provided a variety of extraordinary experiences and challenges. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

He would like to have dinner with and a certain perspective from: Abraham Lincoln on his vision for America, Giuseppe Verdi on the creative process, and St. Paul on the emergence of Christianity.
