

## **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 100<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**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!

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**Anna Jo Beeson** says, "Music is my passion." She taught piano for over 65 years and stopped last year when COVID came. She studied music in college and in New York, majoring in production and theater. Through the years she has put on many music recitals along with Christmas Eve children services, Variety Shows, and conducted the children's choir at Covenant.

She has always enjoyed sewing, made her own clothes, sewed costumes for the Covenant Variety Shows throughout the years, including Halloween costumes for her daughters and grandchildren.

Her family moved so often she was always the new girl in the class. They moved at least 15 times during her school years.

If she could have dinner with people living or dead, she would like to have her grandfather who was one of the last two veterans of the Civil War to live (a drummer boy), her parents because she misses them and they gave her a good life, and lastly her husband John who a very intelligent engineer, funny, and caring.

Anna Jo is one of the last two charter members who are still living at this church. Her husband and she started the church along with other members. One of their meeting places was a theater on Lane Ave where Carsonie's is now. She has three daughters, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren, who are all a blessing in her life.

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**Peggy and Jim Best** are both from small towns in Ohio. Peggy's home is Batavia in southern Ohio and Jim is from Montpelier in Northwest Ohio. They met in Cincinnati in 1952 while Peggy was enrolled in nursing school at Christ Hospital and Jim was a medical student at the University of Cincinnati.

Ten days after Peggy graduated in 1954, they were married in the Presbyterian Church in Batavia. Jim finished medical school, interned in Cincinnati, spent two years in the Air Force and then two years in general practice in Findlay, Ohio. In 1960, Jim decided to specialize in anesthesia, so they moved to Los Angeles where he trained in the LA County Hospital, and then back to OSU hospital Medical Center where he completed his residency, and he joined the staff. He spent the next 10 years teaching and practicing and then he moved to Riverside Hospital.

They were blessed with three children: Rebecca, Mary Anne, and Jim. They also have seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Jim retired in 1994 due to his health problems, and this past April, we moved into the retirement community of Stone Oak in Hilliard.

Peggy and Jim have been members of Covenant for over 50 years and have enjoyed and appreciated the love fellowship and guidance they have received. Traveling was always enjoyable. Two of their favorite trips were on the Orient express from London to Venice, Italy, and three weeks driving on their around Ireland.

Their favorite quote is:

“May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
the rain fall safe upon your field and until we meet again...  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.”

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**Janet Bock**'s favorite job was teaching English as a second language.

She will always remember her grandfather because of his Scottish brogue and his great sense of humor.

The most memorable place she visited was Viet Nam.

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**Dick Campbell** was born in Logan, Ohio, and had two older brothers. He gained an interest in electrical engineering at the age of 9 or 10 from his father, who was adept at fixing things and had wired some homes. When he was 13, his family moved to Lancaster, where he attended high school. He said he was “a pretty good student,” and had no difficulty making friends because he was in the band.

When the time came, he went off to Ohio State to study electrical engineering. Despite going from Lancaster, where his class had around 200 kids, he said he had no real problem with the transition to Ohio State because he made lots of friends while playing the snare drum in the marching band. (Dick remained active in the alumni band until just 5 or so years ago.) He received his degree in electrical engineering in 1954; at that time, it was a five-year program. Eventually, he would go on to get his Ph.D. and teach and do research at Ohio State for 35 years.

Dick got married to Alice, whom he met at Ohio State, and they started a family. He lost his wife to breast cancer when their two daughters and son were adults. She lived six years after she was first diagnosed. During that period, Dick had said he wanted to pursue his doctorate, with Alice responding, “OK, but you’re not going to quit!” Over the years, he had already met Betsy, who was his wife’s boss. Asked how they first started seeing each other, he said, “I asked Betsy if she’d like to go out to dinner one night and, to make a long story short, it was a long dinner.” They have been married for 25 years. Between them, they have a mixed family of six daughters and a son, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

One aspect of his job that enriched his life was that, because he was on a teaching schedule at Ohio State, his summers were basically open. He could work, as he did for General Electric, the (Howard) Hughes aircraft company – or he could visit U.S. national parks and see the country. He once drove up through Alaska and then took a ferry back. His favorite national park? Glacier.

During his working days, he met many famous and accomplished people (but Howard Hughes never came out to the plant in California by the time Dick was working there). He has fond memories of two men, in particular, for whom he worked. At Hughes, the engineers had weekly staff meetings. Dick’s boss started each meeting with a question: “This is where we are. Now what are we going to do about it?” He also had a boss during his days teaching at Ohio State that, if you went to him with a complaint about a co-worker or colleague, he would immediately pick up the phone and summon the person to iron out the problem on the spot. “He’d say, ‘Come down here right away!’” and would confront the issue before it festered.

What is something that few people at Covenant might know about Dick? He spent two summers in Swaziland in Southern Africa training engineers to repair medical equipment at

hospitals. While he was working for Project Hope, he enjoyed traveling to the animal parks in Africa, seeing “elephants, lions and tigers.”

Asked if there were any place he would like to have visited but hasn't, Dick quickly said, “Antarctica.” If he could have dinner with anyone, living or dead, he said, “My two wives and my parents.”

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**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.

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**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 Pajoma, 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.

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**Dale Dougal's** most memorable places he visited were the Twin Towers in New York City and Hiroshima, Japan, and the most interesting people he met were Russian Cosmonauts at a luncheon.

Dale lived through WWII as a pre-teenager and remembers the rationing of gasoline, food, and shoes. He worked in an ice cream factory at age 9 because there were no men around to do this. In the summers he and his brother raked bales of hay and stacked them in a wagon. He drove a delivery truck at age 15. In Korea, Dale served in the Army and was schooled at the Japanese Naval Academy. He was asked to accept a teaching position at West Point but decided to pass on this one.

Dale says computers, space travel, and medical improvements are what changed society the most in his lifetime.

The 3 people he would like to have dinner with are Neil Armstrong (they were in the same period of high school and competed in sports, band, and hobbies—airplanes), General

McArthur (Dale served under him in Korea, and he was very well versed on what to do to recover from a war), and Thomas Edison (wants to talk to him about inventions).

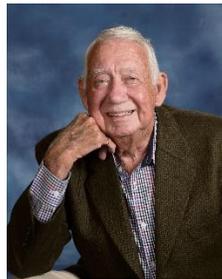
**Eleanore Dougal** met John Galbraith at dinner at Darby Dan and toured the farm with him. He was such a gentleman!

The inventions that have changed society the most have been remote controls, clothes dryers, jet planes, air conditioners, automatic transmissions, and the advances in medicine.

The most memorable places she has visited were the Valley of the Kings, Egypt, and Ayers Rock, Australia.

As a teenager, she remembers WWII when she was allowed to have one pair of shoes a year. There were blackout curtains, food rationing, gas rationing, and turning in a used toothpaste tube in order to get a new one.

If she were to have dinner with any three people, living or dead, they would be Walt Disney, Jonas Salk, and Thomas Jefferson. Why? She likes variety!



**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.

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**Ruth Ann Geiger** was the Customer Service Manager at Chemical Abstracts Service and retired after 27 years of service. Her proudest moment was graduating from Ohio University and her hobbies are bridge, reading, quilting, crocheting, and crossword and jigsaw puzzles.

School in the then small Pickerington was wonderful, and she participated in band, orchestra, and choir. She also sang at numerous churches in Columbus and as after dinner music at banquets, parties, etc.

Beginning in 1952, her parents took her and her sister to U.S. President's birthplaces, last homes, and libraries. What wonderful trips they were, and she has missed very, very few. She has traveled a lot, but her most memorable place was Switzerland.

World War II was especially memorable because her uncle was injured and missing for a while. When he returned to the States, he came to their house, and to this day, she can see him coming up their front steps in uniform and on crutches (full of shrapnel, she might add).

If she could have dinner with three people, it would be Eleanor Roosevelt, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Einstein. After reading "The Other Einstein", she would probably give him a piece of her mind!

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**Hazel Ginther's** hometown and schools were the most important things in her life growing up. Small classes, dedicated teachers, and wonderful friends.

She was nine when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Her father enlisted in the Navy, and she was a sophomore in high school when he returned. Activities in high school included band (Majorette), choir (Ensemble), basketball, and all youth fellowship and church activities. Her talent included tap dancing and she performed in most any show happening in Meigs County.

Upon graduation from high school, she married her high school sweetheart Bob Ginther four years her senior. She worked with Ohio Fuel Gas and her husband completed his music degree at Ohio State. He was the Band Director at UAHS from 1955 to 1980. She was his majorette trainer and taught dance at Marjorie Jones Dance Studio.

When at Covenant the Gintners and the Beesons started the Covenant Variety Shows each year. They even had a dance band of church members who were really very good.

In 1970, she began her banking career with City National/Bank One. She was selected for Bank One's first Hall of Fame. She retired in 2001. Her husband was selected for UAHS first Hall of Fame.

The most memorable place she has visited is "The Mountain" in Colorado Springs. Four-star General James Hartinger was in charge of NORAD and the U.S. Air Force Space Command. Jim had been in school at Middleport with her husband and had planned for them and her father to go through "The Mountain." She has never been so impressed. The vault door there made the one at Bank One look very puny.

If she could have dinner today with three people either living or deceased, she would select her husband and John and Anna Jo Beeson. As Andy Rooney and Julie Garland said, "We could put on another show."

The quote she has always remembered and used is from her mother. She would say, "Now Hazel, when a thing is once begun, never leave it till it's done. Be the labor great or small, do it well or not at all."

Hazel has been a member of Covenant since 1957 and sang in the church choir until she lost her voice.

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**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.)

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**Dorothy Grossman** was born in Scranton, PA and family moved to Washington, DC, when she was 4, where she lived until her marriage. Later she lived in St. Louis, Kansas City, Indianapolis, and finally Columbus.

She danced and sang in a group that performed around the D.C./MD/VA area. She sang on a radio program called “Bud Ward’s Kiddies” when she was a child. She attended the White House Easter Egg Roll until it was temporarily suspended during WWII. She earned her athletic letter in high school.

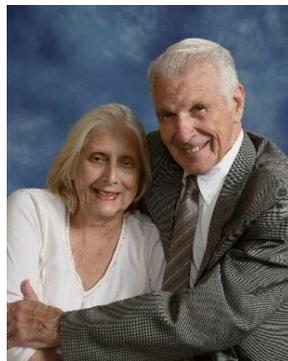
Graduated from the Washington School for Secretaries and worked as a legal secretary until her marriage. She worked as an Executive Secretary for American Electric Power Company and retired in 1985.

Met her husband Don on a blind date when a friend invited him to her church, and they were married for 45 years. Dorothy & Don always bowled on their church leagues, and she later bowled on a women’s league at Sawmill Lanes with Betty Crook, Judy Oeder, and Betty Hubbard Irwin of Covenant.

Dorothy has met some interesting people: while living in DC she rode the NBC elevator with Eleanor Roosevelt one day; was in the same room at the Washington Cathedral when FDR visited; and spoke on the phone with Alice Roosevelt Longworth.

She has 3 children, Keith in California, Robin in Michigan, and Nancy Hughes in Columbus who is a member of Covenant. She sang in the Chancel Choir at Covenant, was an active member of Primetimers, and served as a Deacon.

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**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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...

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**Dick Lewis** grew up in a small urban community of Neville Island. Yes, an island in the middle of the Ohio River, about 10 miles downriver from Pittsburgh. He went to a small school which had K-12 in one building. The school had less than 500 students. Neville School received no state aid, as the tax base on the industries provided all the funding necessary. Because of the size of student base, Dick participated in three (all) HS sports, newspaper, yearbook, Key Club and was class president twice (he thinks). In high school, boys and girls participated in Commercial or Academic classes, however all had to take a couple years of Industrial Arts and Home Economics. He learned to rig electrical circuits; spot weld, cast a screwdriver handle, machine a small tool on a lathe, and fabricate a lamp. In Home Ec., he could cook and sew. This was all, of course, in addition to the academic curriculum.

The most influential time in his life was his service career in the Air Force, 1963 to 1967. He entered the service after graduation from Grove City College, PA, and ROTC in 1963. During his USAF tenure, he achieved the rank of Captain at age 25. During the last two years of the tour, his primary position was base Casualty Officer. He was responsible for setting up government benefits and other service-related entitlements primarily to the spouses of deceased or missing airmen. He provided these services for probably more than 30 deceased or missing fighter pilots serving in Viet Nam. Most of the spouses had families and were the most courageous individuals he had ever met in his lifetime. They were the true backbone of the Air Force family. Dick received the Air Force Commendation Medal for his service.

Dick had a great career in Human Resources, working for two companies. Following his HR time for Brockway Glass, Inc. (1967 to 1979), he became the corporate Benefits Manager for that same company. While working in their new corporate office in Jacksonville, FL in 1988, the company was acquired by Owens Illinois, Inc. of Toledo. He was fortunate to be asked to move to the corporate offices of OI that same year and worked as the corporate pension manager until his retirement in 2001.

He has known his wife Patty Spare for over 40 years. Patty worked with him in pensions for more than 10 years. After their spouses passed, Patty and he renewed their friendship as he commuted back and forth from Toledo to Columbus for a few years. Friendship became relationship and they were married in Toledo in January 2014, in the midst of a Level 2

snowstorm. He lost the coin flip and moved to Columbus. Between them, they have 13 grandchildren, ages 6 to 22.

In his faith journey, he was a member of 6 Presbyterian churches around this great country, a Deacon or Elder in 4 and his current marriage was in a Catholic Church.

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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.

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**GEORGE & CAROLYN McCONNAUGHEY**

Five Generations of Covenant Members

(George's parents, George & Carolyn, Daughters, Grandchildren, and Great-grandchildren)

“Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so”. This is their favorite hymn as it brings them close to young people.

Because of their ages (Carolyn will be 93 on October 31 and George was 96 on August 9), they want to share their volunteer activities involving the care and nurture of children from birth to age eighteen.

Carolyn was the volunteer head of Covenant’s Sunday morning nursery for over 25 years. For example, when Erin Wise was a young mother, her three babies were among the babies in the nursery. As a member of the Childhood League, Carolyn supported the League’s program of providing care and nurture for preschool children with special needs. Carolyn also was instrumental in having special needs children included in the curriculum of the Upper Arlington schools. Carolyn was a Girl Scout leader for six years.

George’s volunteer services involving children included his membership on the Upper Arlington Board of Education for eight years. George served on the Board of Trustees of Buckeye Boys Ranch for 10 years. In addition, George served as chairman of the Center for Economic Education which involved working with representatives of OSU’s College of Education.

George is a World War II veteran where he served 22 months in the European Theater of Operations beginning in February 1944, when George was 18. After Germany surrendered in May 1945, George was transferred to the United States Government Headquarters in Berlin, Germany. Shortly before he returned home, George purchased 3 Swiss watches for \$35. He then sold them to Russian soldiers for \$1000. He used the \$1000 to buy his first automobile as a 20-year-old freshman at Denison University in 1946.

A few other interesting tidbits about Carolyn and George:

- In 1956 George was a member of The Electoral College as a United States Presidential Elector for President Eisenhower’s Re-election.
  - Carolyn has a cousin who is an officer in the Uniformed Secret Service who has served as a sharpshooter stationed on the roof of the White House when the President is in residence.
  - Carolyn and George have met 3 Presidents in the White House on 3 different occasions: President Eisenhower in the East Room, President Johnson in the Cabinet Room, and President Nixon in the Oval Office.
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**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!”

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**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.

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**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.

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**Dave Seifert** was born in Cincinnati OH in College Hill. He went to Hughes High School and then crossed Clifton Ave and continued his education at the University of Cincinnati,

graduating with a bachelor's in chemical engineering. He met Sheila at the University of Cincinnati on a blind date, and they married shortly after he graduated. After graduation he employed by General Electric working on a nuclear airplane for the federal government. When that contract was stopped, they moved to Columbus for work with Battelle Memorial Institute where he worked for 35 years. He was at the 5th Ave location for a number of years working on hot I so static processing and decontamination of uranium and other radioactive elements from labs in three buildings. He also worked on developing solar cells which included a trip to Pakistan to inspect a UN solar so factory. Later he worked at the West Jefferson facility decontaminating and decommissioning their nuclear reactor from the Manhattan Project World War Two day--a well-kept secret in Columbus for many years.

Dave and Sheila have traveled to many places their favorite being Alaska and Cuba they enjoyed sailing a comet for many years at leather lips Yacht Club.

Dave was an Elder at Covenant and chaired the Properties Commission. He volunteered for many years with Habitat for Humanity and helped build a number of houses. Also, he went on several Scioto Valley Presbytery mission trips with members from Covenant. His favorite hobby is woodworking, and he has made many projects for covenant--the pulpit, lectern, choir risers, flower stand, welcome table in the front hall, whiteboards in the hallways, mirror and blackboard in the Bride's Room 120, Audio Control Center for Fellowship Hall, and many smaller items at various times.

Most recently he worked as the volunteer Facilities Manager for a number of years until COVID hit and he had to retire.

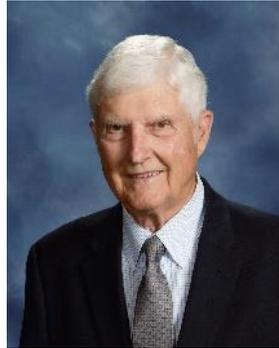
**Sheila Seifert** was born in Cincinnati OH, in her grandmother's home where she lived with her parents and two of her father's younger brothers. When she was about 4, they moved 3 doors down the street to her own home. Another brother of her dad's then moved his family into her grandmother's home (she had died). For that reason, she has always been close to her Conard family through the years. She was able to walk to school through the 8th grade. She graduated from Woodward High School. This is the same school that several members of our church attended (Jack Sanders and Judy Oeder).

Sheila and Dave moved to Columbus at the end of 1969 for Dave to work at Battelle Memorial Institute and then joined Covenant in 1970. These were very important decisions in their lives. Their daughter Robin grew up at covenant graduated from Miami University Ann is an actuary. Their son Andy graduated from the University of Cincinnati and is a civil engineer. They have 6 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

She has been a Deacon and an Elder at Covenant and volunteered a lot over the years. Back when Bruce Langford was pastor at Covenant, he led the congregation to get involved with

Habitat for Humanity, and she spent 7 years as their volunteer bookkeeper. In 1994 she received the Dispatch Community Service Award. Now that they are retired, she works with the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio (IACO) Social Justice Committee and with the Columbus One ID Coalition, which includes working with Building Responsibility Equality and Dignity (BREAD).

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**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.

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**Jan Ulry** was born at home on a farm in Coshocton County in 1925. She met her husband-to-be Dave at a New Year's Open House at his mother's house in Gambier.

Jan and her husband joined Covenant in 1955. She remembers holding her son, Tom, dressed in a slippery nylon snowsuit, as he squirmed and slid in her arms, at an early orientation meeting of Covenant members at the Lane Ave. Theater.

Dave, an aerospace engineer from OSU, worked with Boeing, and his job allowed Jan to travel with him in England, France, and Germany. They also lived for a short time in Palos Verdes Estates, where they could see the ocean on one side and Long Beach on the other.

Jan worked as a secretary for 30 years, before the children were born and after they were grown. She feels blessed, having "had the best" husband, happy adult children, and wonderful grandchildren.

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