

*"I will be your God throughout your lifetime -- until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you"*  
Isaiah 46:4



September 2020

Senior Adult Ministry of First Baptist Port Charlotte

## Senior Member Highlight -- Genevieve Johnson



Genevieve Johnson is proud of her heritage and her strict upbringing in the church. Her father served as a deacon and her mother a pianist in an all-black church in Buffalo, NY where they lived after moving from Armand Beach, FL, when Genevieve was just shy of nine years old. "Church was everything," states Genevieve "except for an occasional trip to the zoo on Sunday afternoons."

Her mother wanted her to go to college and receive a teaching degree, but Genevieve knew in her heart that she did not want to go into education. So instead of attending conventional high school where she could get the credits for college, Genevieve chose vocational high school. During her first year in high school, she and her classmates (all girls) rotated through each of the vocational class choices while also studying the required high school curriculum. At the end of the first high school year, Genevieve met with her guidance counselor to discuss what vocation she would pursue throughout the remainder of her high school years and, while Genevieve was considering a vocation in cosmetology, her counselor encouraged her toward artistry. So, art it was, and two weeks after graduating from high school in 1954, she began her career at L.L. Berger's, a high-end Department Store based in Buffalo where she was employed as the company's first African American Fashion Artist.

Genevieve praises the Lord for providing her with the artistic skills needed to begin her career with a company where talent was recognized above race. She worked at L.L. Berger's and several other fashion department stores over the course of 20 years eventually striking out on her own to pursue a career as an independent sales representative for Home Interiors and Gifts.

Genevieve married Bernard Johnson in 1962 and together they raised five children and are now the proud grandparents to 14 grandchildren. While raising their family, both she and Bernard were avid bowlers and she even received her fair share of a \$12,000 first place prize in one of the women's tournaments in which her team participated. She was also selected to be a contestant on a popular 70's game show, "Bowling for Dollars" where she also placed in a prize position.

Truly a woman before her time, Genevieve is an amazing Sister in Christ, serving two stints as an Art Teacher at Community Christian School and as a Women's Group Leader at FBPC. One of her favorite Books of the Bible is Galatians which she turns to for guidance, clarity, and wisdom.



*Fashion Drawings for L.L. Berger's Fashion Catalog (hand-drawn by Genevieve Johnson).*

## What About Lunch Bunch?

Like most every other routine get-together these days, the monthly senior adult 'Lunch Bunch' meetings have been temporarily overcome by... you guessed it... COVID.

But not to worry, the organizers of the meetings and other senior adult activities and events, Drew and Betty Greiner and Irene Grovatt, are tentatively planning to restart meetings in February 2021 provided no new or additional concerns arise.

For those who have never attended a Lunch Bunch meeting, this is what you can expect. All attendees gather in the Church Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. for singing, entertainment, and a short devotion from the pastor. Then it's on to the Fellowship Hall for a hot meal and – can you guess? Fellowship!

While there, seniors are provided the opportunity to sign up for upcoming trips and events. There is even a White Elephant Table where you can shop for that item that you cannot seem to find anywhere else.

Currently, there are two Fort Myers Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre events on the Lunch Bunch agenda:

1. Irving Berlin's "Holiday Inn" – November 19
2. "Grease" – July 2021.

Signup sheets will be made available on Sundays at the Information Counter as the day of the event gets closer.



## BREAKING NEWS...JUST IN

February's Lunch Bunch will once again host Christian Vocalist, Ms. Lindsey Graham.

## The Role of Church Deacons

It is beneficial to understand the role of Church Deacon to aptly appreciate the dedication of the 25 deacons who voluntarily serve the First Baptist Port Charlotte congregation.

In Acts 6, the appointment of the seven is believed to be the origin of the office of deacon. This view is widely held because the seven were elected to serve (diakoneo) tables (Acts 6:3) and were instructed to serve as deacons (1 Tim. 3:10). Their servant role was intended to aid the apostles by taking care of some of the physical needs of the congregation; otherwise the apostles would have to "lay down the word of God" in order to serve tables (Acts 6:2).

FBPC deacons support the needs of the ministry through oversight of seven specific functions/ministries:

1. Baptism
2. Benevolence Fund
3. Deacon of the Day
4. Hospital/ Homebound Visits
5. Lord's Supper
6. Prayer Partner
7. Widow's Ministry.

We thank each of our deacons for their dedication and faithfulness and pray that our Lord will continue to bless each of them with a servant's heart in assisting the Pastors and Elders to meet the needs of the FBPC congregation, supported missions and local community.



## A Message From The Forever Young Newsletter Staff:

To our adult seniors at FBPC, we hope that you are enjoying the Forever Young newsletter. Just a reminder that a downloadable version of the newsletter is available at <https://www.fbcportcharlotte.com/forever-young/> where you can also sign up to have the newsletter sent to you via email. Please send comments or requests about the newsletter to **Toby Sharp at [toby-michelle1@comcast.net](mailto:toby-michelle1@comcast.net)** or **Sandi Cornwell at [sandicornwell@gmail.com](mailto:sandicornwell@gmail.com)**.

**And, Oh By The Way:** Has anyone ever wondered why Noah didn't just swat those two mosquitos and be done with it?

## The Praises Corner

LET ALL THAT I AM PRAISE THE LORD; MAY I NEVER FORGET ALL THAT HE DOES FOR ME.

--PSALM 103:1-5

Thank you, God. Even though times have been hard, each day is a blessing. We have hope, we keep faith, we have each other, and we are thankful.

*“Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.  
Life is beauty, admire it.  
Life is bliss, taste it.  
Life is a dream, realize it.  
Life is a challenge, meet it.  
Life is duty, complete it.  
Life is a game, play it.  
Life is a promise, fulfill it.  
Life is sorrow, overcome it.  
Life is a song, sing it.  
Life is a struggle, accept it.  
Life is a tragedy, confront it.  
Life is an adventure, dare it.  
Life is luck, make it.  
Life is too precious, do not destroy it.  
Life is life, fight for it.”* – Mother Teresa

*“Growing old is mandatory but growing up is optional.”* – Walt Disney

## Check It Out!

There are bunches of free smartphone apps out there, but here's one that may just save a life: **ICE Medical Standard**.

It's like a medical alert bracelet on your phone's lock-screen display, that informs first responders of your conditions, allergies, medications and emergency medical contact information. *Free for Android, iOS.*

## Labor Day

I don't know about you, but for me Labor Day always meant the start of the new school year was close.

As a child there was a mix of trepidation and anxiousness over that long holiday Labor Day weekend before the first day of school. I remember all of the hours I spent checking and re-checking that all of my school supplies required by teachers was in the book bag, comparing class schedules with friends, sorting through the new (and old) clothes in search of that perfect ensemble – all this, in preparation for the first day of school.

As a parent a sense of angst was always looming as Labor Day drew closer and the start of my children's new school year followed. School clothes, supplies, bus schedules, school-required physicals, lunch/snack preparation, after-school activities, pick-up/delivery schedules, homework, change in bedtimes. The list never ended (nor the anxiety).

But now, as a grandparent there is no more “back to school” stuff for me to worry about. I turned all of that over to my children. Praise the Lord!

Now, I can reflect on the true meaning and a little history of how the first Monday in September, Labor Day is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers; of how the first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union; how 23 more states had adopted the holiday by 1894; and, how on June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a national holiday.

I must admit that I have never really given Labor Day much thought. I never considered the true reason for celebrating *Labor*. But this year with all of the hardships that so many American workers have had to deal with, Labor Day stands out as a day worth prayer and celebration.

For 126 years the celebration of Labor Day has occurred in America. Think from where we have come and all that has been accomplished through hard work, creative risk, allegiance to our country, stamina, and faith.

*Historical facts provided by U.S. Dept of Labor (History of Labor Day)*

– Sandi Cornwell



# WORD SEARCH

## Genesis (Chapters 1-3)

H	C	A	N	U	R	E	G	R	S	D	F
N	S	E	V	E	N	T	H	D	A	Y	I
A	S	F	S	Y	R	N	E	D	R	A	G
K	S	T	H	C	S	M	L	M	V	R	L
E	E	N	A	T	J	H	F	Z	T	C	E
D	R	J	Q	R	X	E	I	J	H	Y	A
Z	P	G	U	E	S	A	O	B	G	Y	F
I	E	O	D	E	K	V	Q	N	I	E	Q
C	N	O	B	O	L	E	I	C	L	B	O
Q	T	D	G	F	K	N	G	X	O	P	W
E	O	A	W	L	N	S	A	P	S	F	H
T	K	N	U	I	R	T	W	O	M	A	N
R	J	D	G	F	E	Z	Y	I	A	B	E
A	I	E	H	E	W	L	V	E	D	E	N
L	B	V	B	D	O	I	P	U	A	F	K
N	D	I	E	H	S	A	S	P	E	M	P
M	R	L	T	R	V	T	X	L	A	G	N

### Find These Words

Adam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Light	
Apple	<input type="checkbox"/>	Naked	
Beginning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rested	
Dust	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rib	
Eden	<input type="checkbox"/>	River	
Eve	<input type="checkbox"/>	Serpent	
Fig Leaf	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seventh Day	
Garden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stars	
Good and Evil	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree of Life	
Heavens	<input type="checkbox"/>	Woman	
Holy	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Words are horizontal, vertical, and diagonal. They may also be backwards or bottom-to-top.

[Answers for this puzzle will be shown in the next edition of Forever Young]