



Golden Milestone Ministry Remembers and Celebrates

1st Corinthians 13: 4-8a - *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*

We have a golden opportunity to share four St. Luke's love stories that beat platinum record sales and a 14-carat diamond ring. Significant marriage milestones of four couples are being celebrated this summer to the glory of God for 70th, 60th and 50th wedding anniversaries.

Happy Anniversary wishes and God's Blessings to Edward and Dixie Cypher (50 years), Walter and Audrey Gerlach (60 years), Bert and Beryl Mottern (60 years) and Alvin and Marion Boltz (70 years).

Edward & Dixie Cypher – 50 Years

Edward Cypher and the former Dixie Freehling met as high school sweethearts and married on July 12, 1968.

It was love at first sight and Edward proposed in front of a sugar shack in Florida after 11 years of dating. They were married at St. Luke's by the late Pastor Hanna, and remembered the day as hot and humid. There was no air conditioning in the church at the time. The bride recalled that she nearly fainted. The small wedding had a bridesmaid and best man, and the reception was held in the church basement. Their song was "Twilight Time" by the Platters. Their honeymoon was spent traveling through New England and into Canada. They literally ran out of roads and no one spoke English, only French-Canadian.

The Cyphers have two daughters, residing in Ligonier and Indiana, and one granddaughter.

Words of wisdom: "Be willing to compromise. Always be supportive of each other. Learn to 'pick your battles' and not to sweat the small stuff!"

Berton & Beryl Mottern – 60 Years

It was love at first sight for Berton (Bert) and Beryl Neupert Mottern. An engagement on Christmas Day 1957 resulted in marriage the next year for these two Butler High School graduates.

Bert and Beryl shared some classes together during their senior year, graduating in 1955. Bert enlisted in the Army that summer and served two years in Germany, being discharged in May 1957. They started dating after Bert came home from the service.

The couple went to a movie on their first date. Beryl received a special present from Bert that Christmas: an engagement ring tucked in a jewelry box. The Motterns were married by the Rev. G. Raymond Womeldorf at the Old Stone Presbyterian Church in Winchester, VA on August 16, 1958. They remember the day as beautiful and sunny. White roses and ferns decorated the chancel for the afternoon service. A reception was held later in the month at Oneida Valley Fire Hall. For their honeymoon, they toured the Winchester area.

Bert retired from Equitable Gas in 1995 after 30 years of service. Beryl worked for Peoples Telephone until 1967, raised their family over the next 10 years, and then returned to work for the South Butler School cafeteria, retiring in 2013 after 35 years of service.

They have two sons and one daughter. Brian lives in Warfordsburg and is a graduate of Slippery Rock University. Shawn, a graduate of PTI, lives in Charlotte, NC. Daughter Nicolle is a resident of Apollo, a graduate of Lenape Nursing School. Two of the four grandchildren have graduated from college: Erin from Penn State and Timothy from PIA. Granddaughters Olivia will be a sophomore at Millersville University and Katlyn will enter her junior year of high school.

Words of Wisdom: "Respect each other, and always tell each other 'I love you' each night."

Walter & Audrey Gerlach – 60 Years



Passing notes in the classroom? It's not what you may think. This couple started their dating life in an unconventional but dedicated way, and now their love stands the test of time with 60 years of wedded bliss on June 21 for Walter and Audrey Gerlach.

Walter recalled that his brother came home one day from class and said 'you should meet my teacher.' He was referring to the former Audrey Crux, who was teaching German. Walter wrote a note asking Audrey for a date. "After many notes she wrote 'ok but right now she was busy correcting tests,'" Walter said. "I sent a note saying bring the tests and I'll help. We had the date, stopped at a little restaurant, ate and corrected tests."

After many dates, they found each other and Walter proposed after a year of dating in the fall of 1957. Walter asked for her hand in marriage after getting permission from her father. They were with her family as they were driving from Homestead Park to Etna when they stopped on Main Street and Walter gave Audrey an engagement ring. Audrey's father made a cardboard cutout of a bell and wrote their engagement announcement on it, hanging it

from a chandelier in their dining room.

Walter and Audrey were married the next year at the Methodist Church in Homestead Park by the Rev. Hollenbeck. Audrey still has her gown, which was so beautiful that three other brides borrowed it to wear in their weddings.

For their honeymoon, they drove to Smithport. Along the way, Audrey said 'I could eat something' and Walter said to open his suitcase. "As she did, the aroma from a dozen rings of Saxonburg baloney filled the car," Walter said. They spent the weekend at the Maple Inn and the owners made breakfast for them. They later toured New York state. A longer honeymoon followed, as they drove to the start of Route 66 in SW Chicago and north to Crater Lake, Oregon, before returning home.

Audrey is a Pittsburgh native. She taught German, Spanish and English in the Knoch school system for many years. She also was instrumental in student exchange trips to Germany. Walter immigrated from Germany in 1949. His mother, two sisters and a brother embarked on the ship Washington from Hamburg to New York. They disembarked and drove to Cabot. Walter is retired from Oberg Manufacturing.

They have one son, two daughters (living in Stowe, OH, Charlestown, WV and Naperville, IL) two grandsons and four granddaughters.

Words of Wisdom: "Good better best, never let it rest. Let the good be better and the better be the best."

Alvin & Marion Boltz – 70 Years

The saying “going platinum” usually means that an album has reached a record level in sales. Did you know that there is a special version of going platinum right here at St. Luke’s? Yes, the 70 years of wedded bliss for members Alvin and Marian Boltz.

Alvin and Marian were married by Pastor Donald Fetterly on June 16, 1948 at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church. Alvin worked at Oberg Industries and Marian was a homemaker and seamstress. They grew up in the Cabot area, both graduating from Winfield-Clinton Township Consolidated School but a couple years apart.

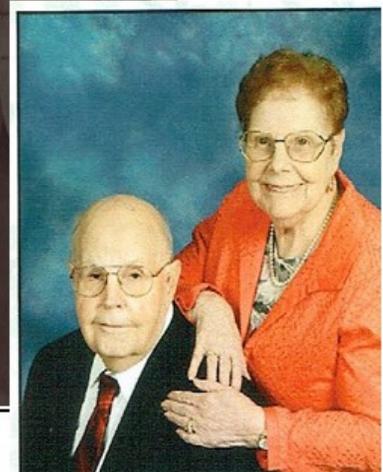
Their decades-long partnership began when Alvin spotted a certain young lady in Sunday school class one day. Alvin had gone to St. Matthew’s Church prior to attending St. Luke’s. Several months later, Marian’s brother escorted her to a youth group Halloween party in October 1944. Alvin asked to escort Marian to her home, and the courtship began.

Alvin proposed on Valentine’s Day 1946. As with most couples at the time, the relationship became long distance when military service intervened. Alvin enlisted with the US Army and served in occupied Japan, returning in February 1948. They married on June 16th of that year, and have been at each other’s side ever since.

The wedding ceremony took place on a Wednesday, with a reception hosted by the ladies’ aid group. They remember that it was a clear summer day. Marian still has her wedding dress, which was made from silk which Alvin had sent home from Japan. Alvin’s sister, Mildred Petsinger, made the gown from the silk cloth. Alvin’s brother Carl served as his best man. Erla Schmidt, one of Marian’s sisters, was the maid of honor. Wedding flowers were roses from family and friends. A cutting from those original roses lives on in a bush at their son’s house. Their honeymoon was spent in Erie and Niagara Falls.

What is the secret, you may ask? “A long happy marriage is not a 50%-50% proposition between two. It is more like 100%-100%, with each giving all.” Marian described their union as a marriage made in heaven. As partners, they said you help and care for each other, in sickness and in health, and you work through things. Alvin and Marian raised one son and two daughters. All are married with their own families.

Marian is a lifelong member of St. Luke’s, and Alvin joined soon after their marriage. In addition to their children and spouses, the Boltz family includes six grandsons, two granddaughters, two great-grandsons and two great-granddaughters. The family gathered over the Memorial Day weekend to celebrate the Golden Milestone anniversary.





In Memory of Jean Knappenberger

Jean has Golden Milestone Birthday

Jean Knappenberger was the latest St. Luke's member to reach the Golden Milestone of 90 years!

On June 14, 1928, Jean was born to Lloyd and Myrtle Black in New Kensington, the oldest of three children. She and her two brothers lived in Vandergrift, graduating from Vandergrift High School. Jean was baptized and later confirmed at the Vandergrift Presbyterian Church.

Jean worked at the former Murphy's store during high school and served as a teaching assistant for Apollo schools. Jean married Edward Watterson, a Korean War conflict veteran. Edward did not see their oldest child until he returned home from the conflict. Edward worked at the local steel plant and was a firefighter, as was Jean's father. One of the Vandergrift fire stations is named after her father.

On Thanksgiving Day 1972, Jean's life changed forever. Edward died unexpectedly at the age of 44, leaving a young widow, a son and three daughters. Jean worked hard to support her family over the next 35 years. Jean served as the North Apollo wage tax collector for 30-plus years. She also was known for hosting card clubs and parties at her home.

Then sometimes life takes a surprising twist when you least expect it. Jean fell in love a second time. Jean and Allen Knappenberger knew of each other, as Allen was from the Leechburg area. Allen, a veteran of World War II, was a retired superintendent for Allegheny Ludlum plants. Jean and Allen dated for a year before marrying on May 26, 2007 at First Lutheran Church in Apollo. They honeymooned in Hawaii and did other traveling. They had their 11th wedding anniversary several weeks ago. Jean and Allen moved to Concordia in 2008, and soon joined St. Luke's church. Jean is described as a very loving and caring person, sharing words of wisdom to be nice to each other.

The latest St. Luke's member to join the "90 Club!" Frances (Fran) Setzenfand

Born September 13, 1928, in Lemont Furnace, she is the daughter of the late John Howard and Margaret Goodman Stahl. She had one brother and two sisters, of which one is still living.

Fran was educated in the Hampton School System, graduating from Hampton High School. She married Howard Setzenfand on September 26, 1947, after going together for six months. They were happily married for 47 years until Howard's passing in 1995. Howard served in the Army and was stationed in Japan. He worked as an operating engineer with Local 66.

The Setzenfands built two homes on Howard's family homestead in Gibsonia and raised three daughters and a son there. Daughter Chris also recalls summertime memories at their Tionesta camp with swimming, water skiing, camp fires and lots of great food. Fran is described as the best pie maker in the world.

When three of the kids moved to the Saxonburg area, their parents followed in 1995, and the entire family became members of St. Luke's. Son John passed away in 2014. Daughters Chris Arthurs, Lynn Pickard and Margaret Nelson live locally. The family now includes six grandsons, four granddaughters, three great-grandsons and four great-granddaughters.

In addition to raising her family, Fran worked as an environmental service technician at UPMC Passavant for 10 years, until health issues force retirement in 1985.

"We are a close family. Most of us still live in the area so she has us, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren all around her," Chris said. "The best way to sum up my wonderful mother's life is (that) Fran is a family person keeping us close and happy. It is the best medicine for her and has helped her achieve her golden milestone 90th birthday. God bless you as we celebrate her life."

Fran's favorite hymns include *Amazing Grace*, *In the Garden*, *How Great Thou Art* and *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty*. Her favorite Bible verses are the 23rd Psalm and 1 Corinthians: 13:13 - "So now faith, hope and love abide these three; but the greatest of these is love." *Words of Wisdom*: "If you are married and have an argument with your spouse, always kiss and make up before you go to sleep at night, and never argue about the same thing twice."

Happy Birthday Fran!!